

COCOLILLY

celebration + inspiration



VOLUME 5 | NO° 2

CHRISTMAS EDITION

“I'm doing
My Christmas dreaming
A little early this year
No sign of snow around
And yet I go around
Hearing jingle bells
Ringing in my ear.”

*- WRITTEN BY IRVING GORDON AND LESTER LEE /
FIRST RECORDED AND RELEASED BY FRANK SINATRA.*

the **CONTENT**

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COCOLILY & CO.

A COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY FOR THE FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR.



In this issue

Inspirational articles, tips and stories for your business and brand. You will also find something new – celebrate; which features a gorgeous wedding in Sicily plus Portraits of a Visionary. Recipes for the holidays feature local brands and artisans. We've also sprinkled in some nostalgia and of course, our Christmas Wish List and Gift Guide.

Every Family Has a Story. Welcome to Ours.

Contributors In Order of Appearance.

Xhenet · Nickeisha Lewis · Sonia Dong · Andrea Anders · Alethea Robinson · Christine Grace · Gianmarco Amico · Roberto Marotta · Jacqueline Nicosia · Carla Silva · Claudio Aprile · Chandler Honey · Fuse & Sip · Genuine Tea Co. · Handfuel · Maiden Voyage Cocktail Co. · Provisions Foods Company · Origin Travels



It's true when they say 'it takes a village.'

I can't begin to express how grateful I am to have connected with so many inspiring and like-minded souls who grace the pages of this issue. They were generous to share their knowledge, stories and, moments in life that have been pieced together to inspire you. Publications are only as wonderful as their contributors are; so thank you 'family' for your words, photography and time.

Piecing this issue together was a labour of love, making sure everything is *just right*. I hope you love it as much as I loved designing it for you.

This holiday season, I wish you peace in your heart, health in your body + mind, and success in all of your dreams.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

P.S. If you know me, you'll know I'm not a fan of being in front of the camera; I'm more behind the scenes. This issue I included a 'me' photo; stepping out of my comfort zone - only because two dear friends were behind the scenes of this impromptu mini shoot. Photography by Carla Silva and Makeup by Christine of Charmartistry.

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INSPIRE



“Freshly cut Christmas trees smelling of stars and snow and pine resin—inhale deeply and fill your soul with wintry night.”

-JOHN J. GEDDES



“Marketing is more than just a logo and beautiful images; it's about resonating with emotion, intent, and promise”.

THE ART OF MODERN LUXURY: CRAFTING STORIES THAT RESONATE IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

WRITTEN BY XHENET – ATELIER M

The holiday season is one of joy, giving, and for the astute entrepreneur, boundless opportunities. Amid the festive cheer, businesses, especially in the e-commerce and service realms, find themselves in a golden moment of connection and growth. But marketing is more than just a logo and beautiful images; it's about resonating with emotion, intent, and promise.

Brands like Cartier or Dior are not just recognized by their iconic logos, but by the stories they tell and the experiences they offer. Their holiday campaigns paint dreams and lifestyles. For all brands, the holiday season is an opportunity to delve deeper into authenticity, connection, and value-driven narratives.

So, how can the modern entrepreneur harness this festive spirit to grow their brand's influence and community? And more importantly, how is your current marketing strategy letting you down? Learn our top 5 tips, and do's and don't's when it comes to holiday marketing campaigns.

1 / FOCUS ON VIDEO CONTENT

The one frontier AI can't conquer - in an era dominated by automation, human-made video remains an irreplaceable touchpoint of authenticity.

DON'T: Assume AI can do it all. While AI is brilliant for generating ads, promotions, and optimizing reach, it cannot capture the genuine emotion and creativity of human-crafted video.

DO: Prioritize creating heartfelt video content to stand out and resonate with your audience. Use AI like ChatGPT to streamline your content making processes. AI can assist you in the creative process by generating keywords and caption or concept prompts.

2 / EMPHASIZE THE UNIQUENESS OF YOUR BRAND

DON'T: Blend into the background by copying the holiday strategies of larger, more generic brands.

DO: Emphasize what makes your business unique. Whether it's artisanal products, a compelling backstory, or a commitment to sustainability, lean into these aspects during the holiday season. Storytelling can be a powerful tool to differentiate your brand from the competition.

3/ IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT ANOTHER HOLIDAY SALE

In a sea of holiday promotions, it's essential to stand out and truly connect with your audience.

DON'T: Lead with the same overdone sales pitches that flood the market. Being another voice in the chorus won't set you apart.

DO: Engage and serve your audience by offering genuine value. Leverage UGC to inspire content that not only showcases your products but also resonates and builds a community around your brand. Your holiday content should seek to inform, educate, and/or engage audiences, special pricing alone should never serve as your customer's primary motivation to make a purchase.

4 / LEAVE THE OVERLY STYLED CONTENT WHERE IT BELONGS...IN 2016

DON'T: Depend on excessively edited, overly designed, filtered imagery and videos that lack genuine connection and substance. And please, don't run holiday ads or sponsored posts using this flat content.

DO: Embrace the present by producing organic, intentional, and valuable video content that truly resonates with your audience and evokes emotion. Focus on how your products or services add value to people's lives in real, tangible ways, your content is more than an advertisement and should serve a purpose to its viewer.. The key to getting the sale is to go beyond the concept of merely selling. Are you a facialist? Share a video that showcases how your services can help your customers beat winter skin dryness and dullness. Own a luxury baby shop? Build a winter capsule wardrobe for your customers in a video, showcasing the quality and versatility of your products.

5/ CHOOSING THE RIGHT INFLUENCER MATTERS

It's about genuine alignment, not just numbers or niche fit.

DON'T: Scatter your products to numerous influencers, pay based solely on follower count, or settle for dull promotional content.

DO: Collaborate with influencers who have a genuine passion for your brand. Together, create video content that's both subtle and authentic, resonating with both their audience and yours. Influencer collaborations need to do more than simply feature your beautiful products or stellar services. Instead, focus on creating UGC that tells a story, is engaging, and educates consumers, offering value and serving a genuine purpose.

Remember, building a strong marketing plan takes time, just as Rome wasn't built in a day, a robust marketing strategy requires foresight and dedication. Don't scramble with last-minute holiday marketing plans. Hasty strategies rarely yield the desired results. If you haven't already, start now, dedicate time throughout the year for brainstorming, watching relevant videos, and staying updated on market trends. Continuously develop, plan, and strategize. If last year's efforts fell short, use those lessons to refine and improve. The key is to refine as you grow and learn, not to repeat the same strategies that under-performed solely for the sake of doing something. If you feel you need extra assistance to achieve your goals, don't be afraid to reach out to those professionals whose offerings and expertise best align with your brand and goals.



ABOUT ATELIER M

Where artistry meets intuition, weaving tales for the modern dreamer and the timeless soul, Atelier M is a boutique brand, web and marketing agency located in Toronto, Ontario and led by it's founder, Xhenet since 2020. We craft poetic tales for story-driven entrepreneurs and intentional brands seeking intentional digital homes, brand strategy, and design with purpose. Connect with Atelier M via email: contact@marbltoronto.ca or visit the website: www.marbltoronto.ca



Storytelling Through Window and Fixture Displays: A Festive Guide for the Holiday Season

WRITTEN BY: NICKEISHA LEWIS – NOLA DESIGNS

In the world of retail, the art of storytelling through visual merchandising is a powerful tool, especially during the festive Holiday season. This creative approach can be the key to engaging your customers in your store and allowing them to connect with your brand and create lasting holiday memories. In this article, we'll explore the art of storytelling through window displays and fixture displays, with a special focus on creating delightful Christmas themes.

1. Embrace the Holiday Theme

To begin your visual storytelling journey, choose a theme that captures the essence of the holiday season. One common mistake is choosing a theme that doesn't resonate with your target audience. Ensure your theme is relatable and appealing to your customer base. For instance, envision creating a Winter Wonderland theme. Imagine your store transformed into a snowy oasis, invoking a sense of warmth and comfort.

2. Create a Focal Point

Every story needs a central focus, and your displays should be no exception. Select a key product or element to serve as the focal point, drawing customers in and encouraging them to explore further. Overcrowding your displays with too many items can be overwhelming for customers. Keep it simple and focus on highlighting a few key products. In a wellness store, for instance, spotlight a luxurious spa gift set as the centerpiece of a Winter Wonderland display. Surround it with complementary wellness products and accessories.

3. Use Colour and Lighting

Incorporate colour and lighting that capture the warmth and coziness of Christmas. Soft, inviting colours combined with gentle lighting create the perfect backdrop for your story. Inadequate or harsh lighting can negatively affect the overall mood of your display. Ensure your lighting is well-balanced and not too bright. Again, in a Winter Wonderland theme, opt for soothing blues and soft whites as your primary colour palette. Illuminate your display with warm, ambient lighting to create a relaxing atmosphere.

4. Incorporate Props and Decor

Using unrelated or excessive props can make your display seem cluttered and confusing. Stick to items that complement your theme. Use props and decorative elements that breathe life into your theme, to immerse your customers in your Christmas narrative. These elements set the scene and encourage customer interaction. Enhance the Winter Wonderland display with snowflake ornaments, faux fur throws, and a cozy reading nook where customers can relax.



5. Tell a Sequential Christmas Story

Failing to create a narrative flow can result in a disjointed and confusing customer experience. Guide your customers through a logical journey as they explore your displays. This narrative can progress from pre-holiday preparations to festive celebrations. In a wellness store, tell the story of Winter Self-Care. Start with a display of skincare essentials for staying radiant during winter (preparations), then move on to cozy self-care products like robes and scented candles (mid-December indulgence). End with a display of relaxing bath products and herbal teas (festive relaxation).

6. Highlight the Benefits

While creating a magical atmosphere, don't forget to educate your customers about the value your products bring to their Christmas season. Neglecting to communicate how your products enhance the customer's holiday experience can result in missed opportunities. For example, explain how your wellness products promote relaxation, self-care, and overall well-being, making the holidays less stressful.

7. Use Signage and Typography

Poor signage and typography can be distracting. Ensure your signage is clear, legible, and aesthetically pleasing. Incorporate signage and typography to guide your customers through your Christmas narrative and deliver key messages within your story. Design signs with messages like Indulge in Winter Bliss or Gifts of Serenity. Use typography that conveys the peaceful spirit of the season.

8. Engage Multiple Senses

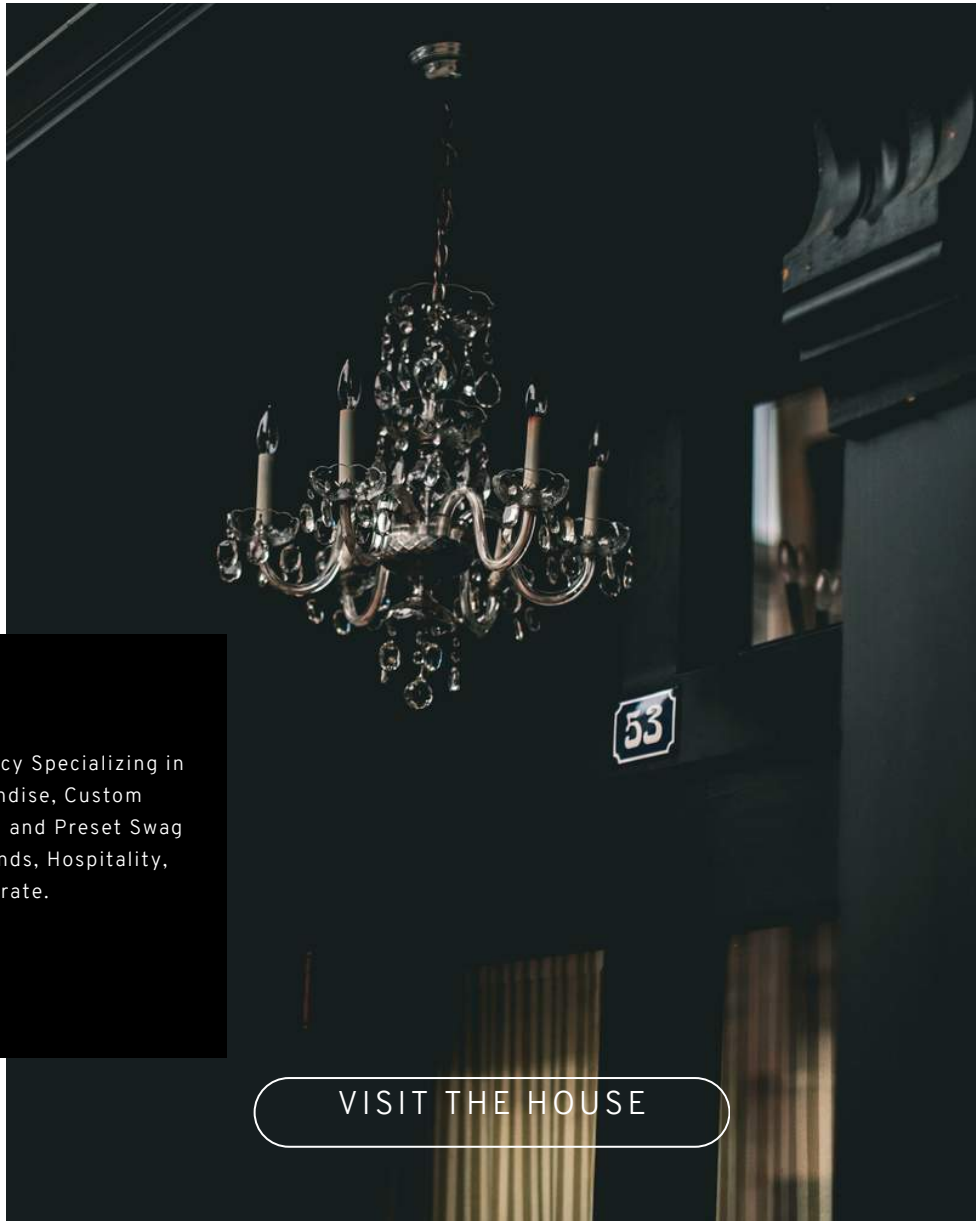
To fully immerse your customers in your Christmas story, engage all their senses. Avoid overwhelming customers with strong scents or loud music, it can be off-putting. Keep sensory elements subtle and inviting. Play soft, soothing holiday music in the background, offer complimentary warm beverages or seasonal scents, and incorporate fragrant candles.

As you can see, storytelling through visual merchandising is an effective approach to connect with your customers and enhance their holiday shopping experience with your brand. By avoiding common mistakes, choosing a theme that resonates with your audience, and incorporating elements that engage the senses, you can create memorable Holiday displays that leave a lasting impact. With these tips, your Christmas displays will not only captivate your customers but also boost your holiday sales and create cherished brand memories, turning your store into a destination that customers return to year after year.

ABOUT NOLA DESIGNS

Nickeisha Lewis is an interior designer turned retail designer. She started her business NOLA Designs to help small female-owned businesses take their retail space to the next level so they can compete in the retail industry. Learn more by visiting www.noladesigns.ca

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EVERYTHING CHANGES: SURVIVING A REBRAND

WRITTEN BY: SONIA DONG - HENKAA



SONIA DONG - CO-OWNER, HENKAA

"The quieter you become, the more you are able to hear." - Rumi

It was a dreary April day when I parked my car in front of my storage unit and frantically got on a Zoom call with my new therapist. I was late. I felt overwhelmed and exhausted, and I was worried about whether I'd finish my very long to-do list for the day.

But I knew I needed to keep this appointment. I knew my mental health was on shaky ground and I needed help.

For the past few years, my small business has been treading water, surviving, but not thriving. I was optimistic about this year being more fruitful than the pandemic years; however, Q1 turned out to be worse than the previous 3 years.

Not only that, I wasn't able to show up for my loved ones the way I wanted to.

I was in despair - and the therapist saw that when I hopped on the video call. She told me to sit and close my eyes, and "feel my feelings."

And the tears just bubbled up and wouldn't stop.

She wanted me to learn to sit with that discomfort and she asked me to continue this practice at home whenever I felt my anxiety creep in. To sit and let the feelings rise, to just be. She asked me to talk to myself and ask myself what I needed, to tell myself I was there to hold space for me, because it had been so long since I had done so.

A few days later, that's just what I did. I sat on the ground and I listened to myself. For two days.

I had mixed feelings about it - like I was wasting time sitting and doing what felt like nothing. But it was completely opposite. It was most definitely some of the most productive and valued times of this year.

What I discovered was that I had lost sight of myself. Henkaa, my business, had taken over my life, masking my true self.

I had somehow locked my values, priorities, hopes and dreams away and was trying to run the business in a way that wasn't in line with who I am.

This time of listening told me that I couldn't continue on this way. I didn't want to. I needed to figure out what I DID want. I owed it to myself so that I could lead a happier and more fulfilling life.

And so, I took action. I made a list of my priorities and created a plan to take an extended pause.

It was two weeks from the day in early April when I met my therapist to the time when I announced my business's temporary closure in June. During this live video announcement, I finally felt a weight being lifted, and I felt confident that I was sharing the real me with the world.

I didn't know if Henkaa would be returning in the Fall but I was no longer afraid of the outcome. I didn't have all the answers when I went on a real vacation with my family in July; all I knew was that I was free to have time off without thinking about the business, and I now had the confidence that I had my priorities (my family) straight.

I came back rejuvenated and ready to determine what direction the business would take or whether it was time to let it go.

What I discovered with these pauses was that I was finally able to clear my head and get off that hamster wheel so that I could work ON the business instead of IN the business. These times of rest enabled me to unlock those values, priorities, hopes and dreams and apply them to a renewed focus and vision for the business.

It might seem counter-intuitive to stop what you're doing when you feel like you're so behind and that you don't have time to pause. Do it anyway. It will transform you, just like it did for me.

I am in a much better place now mentally, and the good days outnumber the crappy ones. And that's not to say that I don't have moments of fear, anxiety and uncertainty. I don't think that's ever going to go away completely, but now I know what I need to do. I know I need to pause, and to listen to the most important person in my life, me.



PHOTO BY ROGUE STORIES



PHOTO BY MICAELA CALI PHOTOGRAPHY

ABOUT SONIA DONG - HENKAA

*Sonia Dong is an author, entrepreneur, philanthropist and mom of two on a quest to make life less stressful and more joyful. She co-authored the bestselling book *Mama's Gotta Grow*, is also co-owner at Henkaa, a socially-impactful clothing brand, where 1% of all sales are donated to help girls and women.*

Learn more by visiting www.henkaa.com



"When you start living the life of your dreams, there will always be obstacles, doubters, mistakes and setbacks along the way. But with hard work, perseverance and self-belief there is no limit to what you can achieve."
— Roy Bennett

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HER STORY



the series

REAL AND AUTHENTIC WORDS FROM FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS



PHOTO BY TARA NOELLE

ANDREA ANDERS INC., *Andrea Anders*

I've known I was entrepreneurial for at least the last decade and, if I think critically, likely since birth. I've always loved being in charge, leading and guiding and energizing others to achieve shared success.

I started my career working for large global agencies and dozens of Fortune 500 clients like Kodak, IBM and Procter & Gamble, but beyond being strategic and able to ideate, launch and execute large multinational projects, I never really aligned with "big box" culture and didn't like feeling like a number or making others feel that way. I love handwritten thank you notes, intimate events and when business leaders show up for and drive meetings, so I transitioned to leadership roles within a few top boutique agencies and eventually decided to do it myself after learning more than I could ever imagine through equal parts success and defeat.

My initial plan (this is still somewhat the case) was to find true equal business partners with complementary skills, but I quickly saw three is most often a crowd and that some sole proprietors are absolutely not able to share the spotlight or see beyond themselves. You can only truly control what you create and own yourself, and bring others in when they have shown their value, alignment with your values and gained your trust. This realization was difficult and more than a little bit soul-crushing, if I'm honest. I love celebrating other women's successes, but I have had so many experiences that illustrate precisely why more women are not on top in the business world and exactly what needs to change. My story is also why my corporation is called Andrea Anders Inc. I decided that my name is something no one can ever take away from me and knew it would give me the freedom to pivot and evolve any way I wanted through the years.

Building a business I am proud of, working with clients I believe in and adore, and seeing how their brands are growing as a direct result of our work is the biggest triumph. In one year, my small agency has grown to 500K+, and I can confidently say I did it myself. I overcame (relative) adversity, I had no investors, parent company, equal business partner or life partner with deep pockets. It finally feels good, and it's about time.

CONFIDENT FIRMNESS.

It is, undoubtedly, the ruthless operational discipline you need to have to run your own business. It means refusing to be squeezed and knowing your value, following up on invoices, being realistic and strategic about your salary line and putting all kinds of clauses in contracts to protect yourself. I trust but verify and have learned confident firmness with the right context commands respect.

THE MARKETING PLAN.

I don't invest much in marketing myself. The brand and network I've created for myself over 20 years and everything attached to it is in essence my marketing plan. People know me, and the ones that like me tend to really like me. They know exactly what they'll get if they recommend or hire me and that while I will always live my best life, I will always show up. Every single client on my roster has been through referrals, and every single one has grown.

My elevator pitch is also spot on in reflecting my public relations and value proposition which has been effective from a marketing perspective.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION.

Genuine kindness is powerful, don't let anyone convince you it's not. My lived experience is that public relations is a mean girls industry in many ways. I believe success and influence comes from being kind and collaborative, transparent and vulnerable without exception. Being kind is not acting fake nice. It is living and working with a growth mindset, helping others succeed, and welcoming collaboration over competition. Some of my best friends are competitors, but we brainstorm, chat openly, go to each other's events, work by the pool together around the world, and even send each other clients. This is very much the way of the future for the industry.

Learn how to turn off the voices in your head. I talk about this often, but something that plagues most entrepreneurs is mind chatter, but the negative voices in your head that say you aren't good enough and that you failed are destructive. If you are someone who has experienced this already, I have to tell you entrepreneurship will only make it worse. You have to work on your mindset and maintaining a positive outlook 24/7. For me, it's always a work in progress, and I am fortunate to have a supportive and patient husband. When I feel defeated, he often says, "But you're Andrea Anders." It makes me laugh, but it helps me re-calibrate.

Choose how you spend your time wisely. How you spend your time and who you spend it with is everything. Demand diverse perspectives on your team, and always surround yourself with inspiration and learning opportunities. Pay attention to the people you feel good around who bring out your best, and beware of energy vampires. Your surroundings affect your success more than you think.

Andrea Anders is an award-winning communicator who has spent nearly two decades building brands and solving public relations challenges across industries for high profile clients like Emirates Airline and Procter & Gamble. Andrea is a public relations powerhouse known for her candour, efficiency, quick wit, contact list, understanding of the luxury market and the high standards she applies to life in general. Learn more at www.andreaandersinc.com



ATELIER M. *Kheneet*

In the quietude of 2020, as the world paused, Atelier M found its first breath. Our inception stems from a profound passion for blending the soulful essence of fine arts with the digital realm, and a deep desire to collaborate with and be a part of a new set of entrepreneurs that seemed to emerge during the pandemic: women inspired to build their brands passionately and on their own terms.

Based in Toronto and extending to brands worldwide, the name "Atelier M" resonates with the spirit of meticulous craftsmanship and dedication we imbue into our work. I've always considered myself an artist, and Atelier M is quite literally my workshop; my safe space that allows me the freedom to create with abandon.

Journeying through the entrepreneurial path wasn't without its challenges, especially as I was easing into my new role as a working mother. Synchronizing between diaper changes and client meetings, understanding the unique needs of brands from diverse cultures, and ensuring my girls saw a mother who was present - the journey was beautifully chaotic. But with every brand story told, I added a chapter to my own story.

SLOW, INTENTIONAL AND DEEPLY SOULFUL.

It's important to come to terms with the fact that your brand can and should evolve. Once I gave myself permission to pivot when I felt the time was right, I was able to take advantage of new opportunities.



PHOTO BY LAURA ROWE PHOTOGRAPHY

When I began my journey as a business owner, I fell prey to narrow concepts of female entrepreneurship that made me feel I had to “hustle” 24/7 to be considered a “boss”. I felt tethered to my device and that I always needed to be available for a Zoom meeting or call. While this mentality helped us grow, it also made me feel less connected to my work on an emotional level, and put so much pressure on me to measure up to a definition of success that no longer felt right once I became pregnant with my oldest daughter.

Now, with the birth of my second baby girl, I've come to understand the value of allowing myself grace: as I ease into this season of business and motherhood that I like to call my gentle season - slow, intentional, and deeply soulful, I have only seen our business continue to blossom and bring about projects that serve as endless sources of inspiration, friendship, and love.

MARKETING BEYOND THE DIGITAL VEIL.

Beyond the filtered world of social media, it's the raw, genuine moments that leave a lasting impression. Narratives that resonate with audiences, accompanied by captivating visuals, have the ability to foster true connection. For budding entrepreneurs, I'd advocate for understanding their brand's “why” and finding innovative ways to share it. Collaborative events, partnerships, and immersive digital experiences can be more impactful than traditional marketing channels, and can serve as a great source of inspiration and connection.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION.

To all the incredible women juggling sippy cups and business plans: your strength is unparalleled. The essence of your brand lies in its story and how you choose to tell it. It's not just about the colors and designs, but the narratives they tell and the emotions they evoke. Embrace challenges as lessons and always be open to evolve. Dive deep into the core of your brand, find its heartbeat, and let it resonate. Think beyond algorithms; real, emotive experiences leave the most lasting impressions.

ATELIER M. is a boutique digital agency designing timeless and refined brands that are results-driven and elegantly-inspired. We create thoughtful, poetic, fine-art inspired brands for story-driven entrepreneurs and dreamers. Learn more at www.marbltoronto.ca

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“It will all shake out
meanwhile I'm putting
up more twinkle lights.”

- KATHLEEN KELLY, *YOU'VE GOT MAIL*



PHOTO BY DESIRED MEDIA

SEE GIRL WORK , *Althea Robinson*

There were many iterations of See Girl Work before it became the creative agency that it is today. It originally started as a marketing blog in 2015 because that was (and still is) my profession by trade. I was already part of the blogger community with a lifestyle blog, but I wanted to create something new that I could share my knowledge in marketing and branding for all the newly emerging entrepreneurs. I also wanted it to be a safe space for women because, at the time, so much of the internet was dominated by male perspectives.

I came up with the name See Girl Work by chance. I was just rambling off some ideas with my sister and it spilled out. Once I heard it though, I knew it was the one. It immediately resonated with me. It gave power to women and it sounded fun! After all, I was in the business of marketing.

Fast forward to today, See Girl Work is a quickly growing creative marketing agency providing brand design, website development and content creation services for organizations making an impact.

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE YOU TRUST. Starting a business in this day and age is relatively easy. Anyone with a phone and access to the internet can literally be up and running with a “business” in 30 minutes or less.

But running a business, generating revenue, becoming profitable, attracting clients, operations and attracting talent are not easy tasks. Be sure to surround yourself with people you trust to support your vision. It will take a small village to bring it to life. Everything else – marketing, how the logo looks, the flow of the website, customer research – all that can be tried and failed and tried again. But your team (and your product) must be right the first time. Especially if they’re client-facing.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION.

What I’ve come to learn through all the iterations and especially the pandemic is do not let fear hold you back. Don’t talk yourself out of things. It sounds easier said than done and it probably is. But my only regret in my creative business is following everyone else and not my own gut instincts.

See Girl Work is a creative marketing agency providing brand design, website development and content creation services for organizations making an impact. Learn more at seegirlwork.com



WHITE HAUS *by Christine Grace*

For over a decade, I've pursued my passion for photography, self-teaching and honing my skills, all the while nurturing a dream of owning my own studio. Throughout various home renovations, I experimented with creating home studios, yet I longed for the professional feel of a dedicated commercial space. Despite setbacks, including a difficult separation, I resolved to achieve my goal. Juggling the responsibilities of being a single mother to three children, I faced the daunting task of setting up my studio with limited support, learning new skills, and managing my emotional burdens. The exhaustion was palpable as I worked tirelessly for long hours, while balancing my family life. Despite these challenges, my newfound connection with my faith provided me with the strength and conviction to persevere.

White Haus by Christine Grace, a name that reflected the purity, light, and love I sought to infuse into my work. White symbolizes purity and light, while "Haus" represents God's dwelling place. My design concept for the studio was guided by a photographer's perspective, with a focus on harnessing natural light and creating versatile areas for clients. Embracing a minimalist, chic, and luxurious aesthetic, I selected each element, ensuring both functionality and aesthetic appeal.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION.

Reflecting on this journey, I would encourage others to heed the persistent voice of aspiration, conquering fear and embracing the unknown. I firmly believe that pursuing what challenges us is often the gateway to realizing our deepest aspirations. Dreams demand perseverance, and I have come to understand that excuses only delay the fulfillment of our true potential. My experience has taught me that faith, determination, and unwavering commitment can transform even the most challenging dreams into tangible, radiant realities.

The White Haus by Christine Grace is a modern, sophisticated, and minimalist photography studio; creating a luxury experience for your clients. Learn more and connect with Christine on Instagram: @oakvillestudiowhitehaus

CELEBRATE





Amore in Sicilia

THE DETAILS

Venue: Ngonia Bay Hotel, Piazza Angonia, Milazzo, Sicily

Wedding Dress: Pronovias

Second Dress: ba&sh

Shoes: Christian Louboutin

Sunglasses: Saint Laurent

Jewelry: Swarovski

Groom's Tuxedo: Brunello Cucinelli

Sunglasses: Celine

Hair: Peppe Aspa

Makeup: Annalisa Zizzo

Flowers: Luana Calabrese

Music: Daniele Paone

Photography: Gianmarco Amico

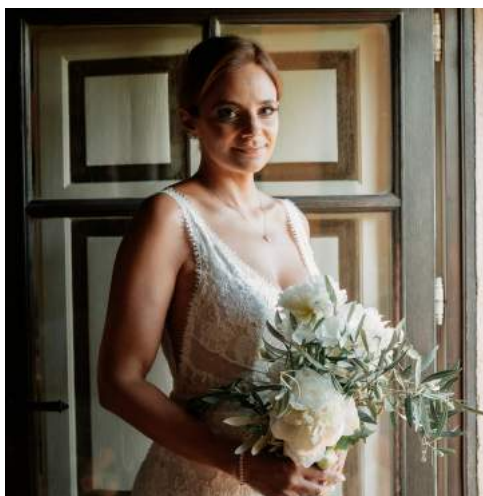
Culinary/Chef Details: Ngonia Bay

On July 3rd, 2023, Chef Roberto Marotta and Jacqueline Nicosia, an illustrious pair in Toronto's hospitality scene, exchanged vows in the heart of Sicily, where their romantic journey began. Roberto's culinary prowess, honed in Sicily over two decades, has earned him acclaim as a distinguished regional chef. Jacqueline, a Toronto native with deep Italian roots, their union marked the inception of both their personal and professional partnership. Together, they envisioned a restaurant group that would transport the essence of Sicily to a global audience.

Their acclaimed establishments—Ardo (bestowed with Michelin recognition), DOVA, and the eagerly anticipated Bar Ardo, set to grace Toronto this year—bear testament to their culinary artistry.

This celebration holds profound significance for the couple, as they stood before the same church where Nicosia's grandparents first met over half a century ago.







The MENU

A gastronomic ode to Sicily.

A welcome Aperitivo: cuttlefish ink mini burgers, panelle, potato croquettes, arancini, aubergine balls, and tempura cod.

Antipasti: Amberjack tartare, tuna sashimi, raw Mazara's shrimp, Aeolian style squid, swordfish and Sicilian caponata, rabbit's salad, red and yellow datterino tomatoes with Salina's capers, tempura artichokes paired with celeriac and mint mousse, veal shoulder with lemon potato mousse and its accompanying sauce.

Lemon Sorbet

Dessert and Fruit Buffet

Pasta and Cocktail Bar featuring garlic, oil, and pepper spaghetti with roasted breadcrumbs

An exquisite selection of wines to complement:

Blanc de Blancs – Chardonnay – Fazio

L'equilibre 1er Cru – Chardonnay / Pinot Noir – Sadi Malot

Etna Bianco 2022 – Carricante – Benanti

Etna Rosso 2022 – Nerello Mascalese / Nerello

Cappuccio - Benanti





la vita è più dolce con te

“And now here is my secret,
a very simple secret:
It is only with the heart that
one can see rightly; what is
essential is invisible to the eye.”

- THE LITTLE PRINCE BY ANTOINE DE-SAINT EXUPERY

My work is a combination of sentimental storytelling and elegance. My love for travel and the places I've been - the USA, Denmark, South Africa, the UK and Portugal, influence my work. I see myself as an artist and approach every day that way.

I'm inspired by taking the mundaneness of everyday life and making it shine. Genres of Gothic Romance and Master Dutch Paintings are things that influence the way I compose my images - from lighting and framing to angles and expression.

What gives me true fulfillment is capturing the raw essence of real living. I like to create images that are genuine, creative, expressive and memorable. My core values are being creatively unique, having an open mind approach and making the unusual shine. What gets me excited are innovative people who want to put their twist on the way of life.

To capture people's authentic moments, I have to know them. Throughout the process, I'm able to form meaningful relationships and learn about what each person values so that on the photo session day, I feel like I'm photographing friends.

Carla Silva is a Branding & Portrait photographer helping entrepreneurs be visible through editorial and lifestyle imagery. Learn more www.carlasilvaphotography.com



Meet the Artist

portraits of a visionary





Creative Director: Carla Silva
Photography: Carla Silva
Wardrobe Styling: Julia DeBartolo
Location: Vogue Studios

One of Canada's most celebrated and visionary chefs, Claudio Aprile was born in Uruguay and grew up in Toronto. He has travelled, lived, worked internationally and spent his professional life in kitchens training through the ranks to become the successful restaurateur he is today.

Throughout his 30+ year career, Aprile worked in some of the most renowned kitchens around the globe. His time spent with Bali Sugar in London, England, earned him outstanding reviews as a young executive chef where he received local and international critical acclaim.

Upon returning to Toronto in 2000, Aprile cemented that reputation at Senses where he wowed critics and diners alike with his innovative cooking. Aprile's first restaurant, Colborne Lane, opened to immediate success. Colborne Lane was lauded as one of the best restaurants in the world and Aprile was named one of the most innovative chefs working in Canada. Central to Aprile's success is his dedication to creativity and drive to expertly deliver the unexpected.

With Colborne Lane offering beautifully crafted, precisely plated cuisine, Aprile switched gears in 2010 by opening Origin. An open kitchen format restaurant offering fast, fresh and accessible food to guests who were seated right across from the chef. Toronto Life and Now magazine voted Origin the #1 restaurant in Toronto.

In 2019, Aprile worked with the team at Liberty Group to consult on a new concept, Xango. Focusing on Asian and Latin American Cuisine, the restaurant received outstanding reviews and attention from local and international media.





“Cooking and creativity has always been at the center of my life. The ever-changing pace of a professional kitchen has always intrigued me and kept me motivated. Every day is new and brings a whole set of unique challenges. I find this very exciting.”

“My biggest inspiration are my children, Xee and Aiden. I find myself constantly trying to impress them. They’ve given my life so much meaning and purpose.”

"I believe that success and failure are related to each other. If you play it safe, you will never create anything that you're proud of. In the end it's about the body of work and the process."



T H E C A F E C O L L E C T I O N



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Food & Drink Recipes

FEATURING LOCAL BRANDS AND ARTISANS.





PHOTO BY PURE SPRINKLES

Easy Gingerbread Bundt Cake

INGREDIENTS:

Dry Ingredients

- 1 cup oat flour
- 1 cup almond flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ cup arrowroot flour
- ¼ tsp sea salt

Wet Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- ⅓ cup coconut oil, melted (room temperature) (or dairy-free butter)
- ½ cup almond milk (or plant-based milk of choice)
- ⅓ cup molasses
- ¼ cup Chandler Honey's Gingerbread Honey* (plus ½ tbsp warm water to loosen the honey)
- ⅓ cup coconut sugar (or brown sugar, if you don't need the recipe to be refined sugar-free)
- ½ cup hot water

Decorations

- sprinkles (optional but highly recommended)

Icing Sugar Snow

- ¼ cup refined sugar-free icing sugar (or powdered sugar)

Preparation

- Spray bundt pan with cooking spray and set aside.

Gingerbread Bundt Cake

- Preheat the oven to 350 °F
- Combine all the dry ingredients in a medium bowl. Set aside.
- In a large bowl, add eggs and coconut sugar and whisk together. Then add Chandler Honey's Gingerbread Honey along with molasses and mix again. Add the remaining wet ingredients and whisk together until you get a nice smooth consistency.
- Now it's time to add in the dry ingredients! Add a little at a time and slowly whisk together until you get a nice smooth consistency. You will notice the batter will turn into a lovely light caramel brown colour.
- Carefully add in hot water, this is a secret ingredient in classic Gingerbread cake! Whisk everything together one last time. You will notice the batter is more loose and runny than regular cake batter, but not to fret, this is how it should be and will come out beautifully!
- Slowly pour the batter into your bundt pan and give a gentle shake to ensure the batter distributes evenly. Place in the oven to bake for 40-45 minutes or until it turns a medium brown colour.
- Once it's baked, remove it from the oven and give it a quick toothpick test. If it needs more time, place it back in the oven. Otherwise, let it cool down and remove it from the pan. Place it on a wire rack, plate, or platter to cool down completely.
- All that's left to do now is enjoy this glorious Easy Gingerbread Bundt Cake! This cake is lovely as it is, but if you want to dress it up more for the holidays, here is one option.

Decorating Easy Gingerbread Bundt Cake

A dusting of icing sugar snow.

Add some icing sugar into a sifter and dust some icing sugar over the cake for a beautiful festive presentation that looks like freshly fallen snow and a touch of added sweetness.

Chandler Honey is a collection of raw, organic honey (all sourced from the Founder, Tique's, family farm) with a special twist. With flavour infusions like Gingerbread, Earl Grey, Crème Brûlée, and more - there's a honey flavour for everyone to love! Learn more at chandlerhoney.ca



Holiday Moira Rosé Fruit Cookies

*Cookie Photo & Recipe Creation by
Monique Zizzy*

INGREDIENTS

1 package of Moira Rose Sangria infused fruit (in wine or in water). Chop the pineapple, rose buds and lemons. (cranberries, lemon, pineapple and rose buds).

2 cups all purpose flour
1 ½ tsp baking powder
1 tsp cornstarch
1 tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp salt
5 tbsp butter, melted
2 eggs
4 tsp vanilla extract
¾ cup sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, cornstarch, cinnamon, and salt.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together the butter, eggs and vanilla. Stir in the sugar and flour then fold in the soaked fruit.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
4. Divide the cookie dough into 24 balls. Place on the sheet and flatten them each to about ¾ “ thick. Bake at 350 for 10-12 minutes.
5. Cool the cookies and enjoy!

Fuse and Sip cocktails and mocktails are handcrafted, contain 100% pure ingredients and are free of any additives or preservatives. Our cocktail & mocktail infusion kits, instant infusion cubes and rims contain a mix of dehydrated fruit, herbs, flowers, and organic cane sugar. Simply add to your favorite alcohol (or water), infuse, top with sparkling water, and enjoy a delicious bar-worthy cocktail or mocktail anywhere. Learn more at www.fuseandsip.com

Matcha White Chocolate Bark

Vibrant green Matcha, deep red cranberries and silky white chocolate - this is a perfect treat for the holiday season! Simple to prep and pop in the freezer, this recipe is ideal for any potluck or holiday party you've got going on. Feel free to top this bark with any dried fruit or nuts. This is another wonderful recipe by our good friend, Carla Riley.

Prep time: 15 - 20 mins Servings: 12 - 15



Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp Kato Matcha Powder
- 400g White Baker's Chocolate for base
- 2 Tbsp Coconut Oil
- 4 Cups Water
- ¼ Cup Dried Cranberries
- 1 Tbsp Chopped Pistachios
- ¼ Pumpkin Seeds
- 50g White Baker's Chocolate for decorative drizzle



Preparation:

- Add 2 cups of water into the one pot and place the metal bowl on top. Using low to medium heat let the water come to a boil.
- While the water is boiling, break up 400g of white baker's chocolate into smaller chunks.
- Place the chunks into the metal bowl, grip the bowl with one hand (ensure you are wearing oven mitts to avoid a steam burn)
- Continue to stir the chocolate with the other covered hand and keep stirring the chocolate until it starts to melt. (It's important to continuously stir the chocolate as you don't want the chocolate to seize and become pasty.)
- When only small lumps remain, add the coconut oil and continue to stir.
- Once the chocolate and oil are smooth, remove the bowl from the pot and add the Genuine Tea Kato Matcha powder.
- Stir until the matcha is well mixed.
- Evenly spread the white chocolate and Matcha mixture on a parchment paper covered baking sheet.
- Generously sprinkle the cranberries, pistachios and pumpkin seeds
- Place in the freezer for quick cooling and to harden the chocolate.
- Begin melting the remaining 50g of white baker's chocolate using the same method as previously stated.
- Remove the bark from the freezer and add the drizzle,
- Place the completed bark back into the freezer for 45-60 minutes.
- When bark is hard to the touch, start breaking up the bark into medium-large pieces and serve.
- Keep bark in the fridge in a covered plastic container, for a week.

Named one of Canada's top growing companies in 2023 (Globe and Mail Report on Business), Genuine Tea offers ethically sourced loose leaf tea, Japanese matcha, tea latte blends and sparkling iced tea. Learn more at genuinetea.ca



PHOTO BY CRYSTAL PROVENCHER

Winter Pavlova

INGREDIENTS

Meringue

- 6 large egg whites, room temperature
- 1½ cups caster sugar (superfine)
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice or white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon cornflour (corn starch)
-

Decoration

- 1-2 apples (thinly sliced)
- ½ cup dulce de leche caramel sauce
- 1 cup of Handfuel Apple Pie Walnuts mix (roughly chopped)
- Sugared cranberries (optional)

DIRECTIONS

- Heat your oven to 280°F. Line a baking tray with parchment paper and trace a circle. Then draw an inner circle. Use bowls as guides if necessary. Turn the parchment paper over so that the pen/pencil line is underneath.
- In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whip your egg whites on medium-low speed for 3 minutes until they are soft peaks.
- Turn the mixer to low speed, and add the caster sugar one spoonful at a time while whisking (make sure to wait around 10 seconds between each spoonful). Once all the sugar is added, continue whisking at high speed for 5 more minutes.

- Then add the lemon juice and cornflour and whisk for another 5 minutes. The egg white mixture should be thick and glossy, and the sugar should be fully incorporated. If you rub a bit of mixture between your thumb and finger, there should be no grit as the sugar has fully blended; if there is, then continue whipping for a couple more minutes.
- Spoon the meringue mixture onto your prepared tray between the two pre-drawn circles. Shape the meringue with the back of a spoon and create a small indent for the dulce de leche to sit into.
- Bake. Place the baking tray in the centre of the oven and immediately reduce the oven temperature to 230°F and bake for 2 hours. Then turn the temperature off and leave it in the oven for a minimum of 2 hours (preferably overnight) to cool completely. Don't open the oven door!
- Top with your dulce de leche, nuts and apples and enjoy!

Handfuel is a Canadian snack company focused on finding the perfect balance between taste and nutrition. We only use the finest ingredients to ensure that every product is not only healthy, but also irresistible. All of our snacks are expertly crafted, gluten-free, and made with care—so you can find your fuel and keep moving. Learn more at www.handfuel.ca



PHOTO BY KENDRA DEEN

Winter White Mulled Party Punch

Start by filling your Winter White Sangria Cocktail Infusion Kit with dry white wine. Refrigerate for 3 days. Strain and add liquid back into the jar.

Ingredients:

- Jar of Winter White Sangria-infused white wine
- 250ml aged rum
- 75ml orange liqueur
- 500ml apple cider
- 1 can of club soda

Let's get started:

Add all ingredients to a pitcher or punch bowl. Stir well and top with ice. Garnish each drink with a sprig of rosemary and thinly sliced apple.

Looking to warm up?

Add all ingredients to a crockpot or a stovetop pot and warm through on low heat. Serve in mugs or heatproof glasses.

Maiden Voyage Cocktail Co. make beautiful cocktail infusion kits that take the guesswork out of crafting cocktails at home. Perfect for parties, easy to enjoy, always delicious. Learn more at www.maidenvoyagecocktails.ca



Lemon Glazed White Chocolate Raspberry Scones

This Vanilla Bean Scone Mix recipe features a delectable combination of raspberries and white chocolate, taking the classic scone to new heights of deliciousness. To elevate the flavour profile even further, we suggest topping these already delightful scones with a zesty lemon glaze. This recipe is quick and easy to follow, requiring just a handful of ingredients, allowing you to prepare a batch of scrumptious scones in no time. Perfect for breakfast or afternoon tea, these scones are a delectable treat to savour and share. **Pro Tip:** Using cold butter and folding the dough several times before cutting will create wonderful layers when baking! Cut into smaller wedges for a wee bite with your afternoon tea.

Time: 35 minutes Yields: 12 scones

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box Provisions Vanilla Bean Scone Mix
- ½ cup cold butter, cut into small cubes
- ¾ cup cold milk
- 1 cup fresh raspberries
- ½ cup white chocolate chips

For the glaze:

- 1 cup icing sugar
- 3 Tbsp of fresh lemon juice (about 1 lemon)

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
2. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
3. Place the dry mix in a large bowl. Remove ¼ cup of the dry mixture and set aside.
4. Using your hands, work butter into the dry mix until pea-sized pieces form. Leave some visible pieces of butter.
5. Add the milk, raspberries, and white chocolate chips and stir just until the dough comes together. Do not over mix.

6. Sprinkle the reserved dry mix on a clean surface and take the dough out of the bowl. Fold the dough in half several times, pressing down each time, incorporating the excess dry mix.

7. Pat the dough into a 9 inch round. Cut the dough into 12 equal wedges. Place scones on the prepared pan. Bake for 15-20 minutes until bottoms are golden brown.

For the glaze:

1. Whisk together the icing sugar and lemon juice. Add more lemon juice or icing sugar if needed for your desired consistency. Add lemon zest to the glaze to boost the lemon flavour.
2. Drizzle the glaze on the warm scones. For a further indulgence, top with a dollop of Provisions Bumbleberry Jam and enjoy!

Cooled scones can be stored in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

Provisions is a women-owned specialty food company nestled within the vineyards and orchards of the beautiful Beamsville region of Niagara. For over a decade, our team has been handcrafting delicious jams, shortbreads, and more in our small-batch kitchen. Learn more at provisionsfoodcompany.com



Meet Jaime Bergman, the creative force behind Crescent Living Co. With a background in interior design and a passion for creating organized, stylish spaces, Jaime founded Crescent Living Co to help busy families transform their homes into havens of calm and functionality. At Crescent Living Co, we specialize in home organization services for various spaces, from bedroom closets to kitchens, and even offer packing and unpacking services for stress-free relocation's. We're here to make your home a reflection of your style, a source of inspiration, and a place where organization meets elegance.

clco

Crescent Living Co

LEARN MORE

WWW.CRESCENTLIVING.CA

LIVE



“Christmas magic
is silent. You don’t hear
it—you feel it. You know
it. You believe it.”

- KEVIN ALAN MILNE

December

It's the most wonderful time of the year.

- 
- 1 National Christmas Lights Day
 - 3 Make a Gift Day
 - 4 National Cookie Day
 - 5 Bathtub Party Day
 - 6 St. Nicholas Day
 - 7 Letter Writing Day
 - 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 - 9 Christmas Card Day
 - 9 National Pastry Day
 - 10 Gingerbread Decorating Day
 - 12 National Poinsettia Day
 - 13 National Cocoa Day
 - 14 Roast Chestnuts Day
 - 15 International Tea Day
 - 15 National Wear Your Pearls Day
 - 17 National Maple Syrup Day
 - 19 Look for an Evergreen Day
 - 20 Go Caroling Day
 - 21 Crossword Puzzle Day
 - 22 National Cookie Exchange Day
 - 23 Festivus
 - 24 Christmas Eve
 - 25 Christmas Day/Jesus' Birthday
 - 26 National Candy Cane Day
 - 26 National Thank You Note Day
 - 27 Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day
 - 31 National Champagne Day

3 PLACES TO TRAVEL DURING THE HOLIDAYS

WRITTEN BY SANDRA – ORIGIN TRAVELS

The holiday season is upon us and there are two kinds of people during the ho ho holidays. One embraces everything holiday: time with family, lots of food, decorating the house with lights, putting up the tree and presents! The other is a jet setter and takes this opportunity to get away from it all. Which one are you? If you are #2 (every year or just this year), here are three ideas for where to travel during the Holidays.

1) Christmas Markets in Europe

Nothing will get you in the holiday spirit more than an entire town decked out in decorations, with Christmas music playing around every corner, ice skating, sipping on mulled wine and indulging in warm gooey cheese. The countries most known for their Christmas markets are Austria, Germany and France. If you want to get to all three, 16 days is an ideal amount. If you don't have that much time, choose one or two. Bundle up, take in the sparkling lights, feel the Christmas cheer.

2) A ski trip to anywhere!

Snow bunnies and winter lovers rejoice – ski and snowboard season is here! Whether you're here for the sport, just for the apes, or for both, it's a guaranteed good time in a mountain town. Ski resorts around the world pride themselves on the best conditions, the best snow and the best ski village. From Western USA to Europe to Japan, bundle up because your ski vacation possibilities are endless.

3) A hot destination – Grenada

If you're craving sun and sea, the Caribbean is calling your name! From stunning beaches, crystal clear blue water and ideal temperatures, you'll be spending all week outside. For a refreshing and re-energizing vacation, we like to spend a few days on island time. On the agenda: hiking to a volcanic crater lake, snorkeling with the world's only underwater sculpture park, eating our hearts out at a Caribbean street food festival and lots and lots of beach time. The vibes are unmatched.

So what are you choosing?

Origin Travel is a small group adventure travel company, curating epic experiences to get you off the beaten path in the company of new friends. Learn more at www.origin-travels.com



Have Yourself A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Inspirational ideas for spending time alone this season.



Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year but for some, it might not be. Some may be going through a deep loss and can't bring themselves to celebrate this year. Some might be alone because they have recently gotten a divorce and they will not have the kids this year. Some of us don't have family or friends to celebrate the holiday with. Whatever the reason, we spend Christmas alone.

Here is some inspiration for spending time alone this season - from playful to practical. Hopefully you will find at least one that will speak to you and help you find joy this season.

- Decorate your room with twinkle lights, play Christmas hymns in the background and make a gratitude list.
- Treat yourself like royalty and eat breakfast in bed on a silver platter.
- Take a road trip to a place you've never been before.
- Volunteer at one of your favourite local charities for a day or more.
- Invite an elderly neighbour over for a cup of tea.
- If you go to church, ask if you can help out with anything for a day or simply go when it's quiet and pray in peace.
- Bring out the jigsaw puzzle you never started, make yourself some hot chocolate and complete it!
- Create a Christmas playlist and go for a winter walk.
- Treat yourself to a Christmas spa day at a local resort (or a few days), relax and let yourself be pampered.
- Go on a wellness retreat in a sunny destination.
- Take a relaxing bubble bath and watch "White Christmas" with Bing Crosby.
- Give yourself a new look and learn how to apply makeup with a YouTube tutorial.
- Create a fort or cave out of pillows and bed sheets, and spend the day reading books, doing crossword puzzles and just daydreaming.
- Have a Christmas movie marathon.
- Do one thing you loved doing as a kid, ie. colouring Christmas pages, watching cartoons and eating cereal, or sneaking out early in the morning to build a snowman.
- Write out 12 things that bring you joy on little pieces of paper. Fold and place them into a festive dish or jar. Pick one out each day and do whats on your list.
- Hand-write a letter to an elderly relative that doesn't do digital or virtual calls.



Christmas

LOVE LIST

Festive scented candle paired with a new book · Visit your local Christmas Tree Farm · Brunch with friends · Deliver a meal to someone · Bake & decorate Christmas cookies · Read the Christmas story in the bible · Treat yourself to a chocolate Advent Calendar · Decorate a gingerbread house · Buy clementines and savor the scent when you peel them · Donate to your local shelter, food bank or charity · Build a snowman and play in the snow · Mail Christmas cards to family & friends · Shop and support local · Make snow angels · String popcorn and cranberries · Read *The Night Before Christmas* · Do a jigsaw puzzle · Attend a candlelight service · Leave Christmas cookies and milk out for Santa · Go on a sleigh ride · Listen to classic Christmas music by artists such as Bing Crosby and Dean Martin · Visit a nursing home and help to spread some cheer · Make hot chocolate and add lots of marshmallows · Go ice skating · Paint by number Christmas painting · Watch *The Nutcracker* · Host a Secret Santa or Cookie Exchange Party with your friends · Get a Christmas manicure · Donate to a local toy drive · Have a snowball fight · Learn to knit and start with a scarf · Eat candy canes · Watch *A Christmas Story* · Plan a Christmas Pancake Breakfast

MERRY & BRIGTH MEMORIES



"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime."

— Laura Ingalls Wilder



COCOLILY
& CO.
Café



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LOVE



"I'm dreaming
of a white Christmas,
just like the ones I used
to know. Where the
treetops glisten, and
children listen to hear
sleigh bells in the snow."

- IRVING BERLIN, "WHITE CHRISTMAS"

Christmas
WISH LIST
AND GIFT GUIDE



WISH LIST



Cedar Ave Candle Co. / Oasis Candle, \$60.00 / Lose yourself in paradise with Oasis! This limited edition blend features a tropical scent in a 14oz iridescent vessel. Enjoy a "vacation in a glass" with this unique and unforgettable fragrance. Natural soy candle with a crackling wooden wick, 90 hour burn time. Available at www.cedaravecandleco.com



Cedar Ave Candle Co. / Reed Diffuser, \$34.99 / Diffusers are a popular and practical way to add constant fragrance to any room, without the use of heat or flame. Scented with high quality, phthalate free fragrance oils; includes 10 natural reeds. Hand-poured on Vancouver Island. Available at www.cedaravecandleco.com



Paume / New Parent Bundle, \$177.00 / Must-have essentials that every parent will appreciate. The kit includes a Refillable PAUME Pump (sold empty), Refill Bag, Refillable Travel Bottle, Voyager Pouch, Probiotic Hand Balm and Exfoliating Hand Cleanser. Available at mypaume.ca



Sunset Snuggles / Black & White Diamond Tile Toddler Blanket, \$53.00 / Your little one will fall in love with this luxuriously soft and snuggly baby blanket. Knit from a signature micro-polyester feather yarn, the black & white cow print toddler blanket is destined to become their must-have for nap time, stroller softness, and everyday cuddles. Available at www.sunsetsnuggles.com

WISH LIST



Blossom and Pear / Heirloom Wooden Musical Carousel, \$90.00 / These beautiful heirloom musical carousels are made from beech wood and feature a sweet tune when turned. Personalisation is available to make it extra special. Perfectly packaged in a gift box, these make the perfect gift for the little love in your life, and is sure to be treasured for years to come. Available at www.blossomandpear.com



Mirela Wood Designs / Charcuterie Board with Grape Twig Design, \$90.00 / This stunning serving tray/cutting board is made from cherry wood. Hand burned with grape twig in wine bottle design. A truly unique and one of a kind gift idea for the holidays. Available at www.etsy.com/shop/mirelawooddesigns



The Organic House / Tea Infused Chocolate Box, \$24.95 / These assorted tea infused chocolate bars make the perfect gift for the tea and chocolate enthusiast. The tea infused flavours include Earl Grey, Chai Latte, Hibiscus Strawberry, Chamomile Lemon and Rosehip + Raspberry. Available at www.theorganichouse.ca



Ensemble / The Sampler, \$60.00 / The Sampler allows you to try a variety of tastes or build your own charcuterie board. This Ensemble box is ideal for gatherings of 2-4 people, such as Girls Night In, Christmas Movie Marathon and family game nights. Available at www.tasteensemble.ca

WISH LIST



Cosman & Webb / Organic Maple Syrup, Amber Rich Taste, \$13.00 / 100% pure amber maple syrup, unblended and single forest. A perfect pancake syrup, a natural ingredient for your baking, a sweetener to your coffee, tea, and salad dressings. Available at www.coswebb.ca



Maison Zoe Ford / Crispy Cinnamon Doughnut Pancake Mix, \$12.99 / A recipe so good you'll want to make every weekend. The secret is giving you a bag of cinnamon sugar to create a doughnut like pancake coating. Available at zoefford.com



Fuse & Sip / Gift Box Set - Moira Rosé Sangria & Feeling Spritzzy Wine Spritzer with Garnish, \$38.50 / The gift set includes the Moira Rosé Sangria Kit, Feeling Spritzzy Wine Spritzer Kit along with rosebuds & jasmine buds for garnish. Available at www.fuseandsip.com



Provisions Food Company / Shortbread & Jam Gift Set, \$44.00 / Sweet favourites in a perfectly giftable set. Set includes Vanilla Bean Shortbread, Dark Chocolate Shortbread, Cherry Merlot Jam and Peach Prosecco Jam. Available at provisionsfoodcompany.com

WISH LIST



Rock Paper Pretty / Clara Necklace, \$68.00 / Give this to someone who lights up your life or gift yourself this special necklace for a daily reminder how your beauty radiates from within to all those around you. White opal pendant 5mm x 7mm with 14k gold plated prongs. 14k gold filled chain- 16 inches. Available at rockpaperpretty.ca



Catalyst & Co / 'Learn to Fly' Keepsake Charm, \$14.99 / Let a symbol of the feather remind you or the person you gift, to float and take your falls with grace with a Wingarium Leviosa Trinket. The Trinket comes with buttoned suede pouch and story card ready to be gifted as a precious keepsake. Available at www.catalystandcompany.com



ela Handbags / Lady Bag – Black Pebble with Gunmetal Hardware and Zipper Closure, \$138.00 / A shape that is decidedly feminine, structured yet entirely functional. Equipped with two straps (crossbody & guitar), the Lady Bag is the perfect satchel to go about your day. Available at elahandbags.com



Lemonberry / Beatrice Mitts, \$125.00 / The BEATRICE by SOIA & KYO is a short and chic leather mitten lined with super soft, super warm faux fur. The Mitts feature a zippered opening at the fingertips with a hidden magnet to keep the top in place while open. A perfect gift for the winter season. Available at www.lemonberry.ca

WISH LIST



SALT & STONE / Black Rose Set, \$103.00 / A trio of Black Rose essentials to refresh your senses. The Set includes Body Wash, aluminum-free Deodorant and Hand Cream. Treat yourself to the set or gift someone who deserves a little pampering. Available at www.saltandstone.com



COCOLILY & CO. / Mademoiselle Collection | Set of 3 | Luxury Candles, \$125.95 / An eco-luxe candle gift set that includes scents inspired by the cafe, book store and flower shop. The gift box includes handwritten note card. Available at cocolilyandco.com



Tofino Towel Co. / The Serene Coverup - Bath Robe, \$90.00 / The Coverup features a natural weave, stripe design detail, and finished with a tassel fringe. Handmade by traditional artisans in Turkey. Made with 100% Turkish Cotton. Available at tofinotowelco.com



London Rose / Bestsellers Gift Box Set, \$45.00 / This gift set is perfectly curated to let someone special know you're thinking of them! It includes an Agave Washcloth, Luxe Rose Petal Bath Salts and a Konjac Root Sponge. Available at www.londonrose.ca

LADY BOSS

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May you never be too grown
up to search the skies on
Christmas Eve.



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FOR THE DREAMER, BELIEVER, ACHIEVER.