

Father's Day is coming. What do we get for Dad?

First of all, I think most men enjoy being pampered just like women do. Just don't pamper them with girl stuff.

Women like to be driven in a chauffeured limousine. Men want to learn to drive a racecar. Women like a beautifully roasted fish and a glass of nice wine. Men like to roast themselves fishing with plenty of cold beer at their sides.

No question wine is a great gift idea. With so much variety out there, you can find one or several bottles that will please him to a tee.

With Father's Day in mind, I contacted several local experts to get their ideas on what they would recommend.

My friend Christine Healey at Christine's had several ideas. She told me that two wines from Napa Cellars are good choices. She likes both their Chardonnay and Merlot. She says the Merlot has "a long luscious finish." She got my attention.

Two Zinfandels are also Christine's suggestions. The first one is from Pietra Santa. This one has a little Dolcetto in it that has a softening effect. The other is the outstanding STG Zin. It has lots of ripe fruit and a rich nose.

All four of these are under \$20 and are available at Christine's.

When I heard from Rick Horne at The Brass Brassiere, he shared some thoughts with me. Rick has a great palate that can always spot a good wine.

Cain Five, a Bordeaux-style blend from California, is Rick's first pick. I've always thought its little brother, Cain Cuvée to be a good bargain.

Other wines Rick chose are Amon Ra, an Australian Shiraz and Sea Smoke Pinot Noir. We have the Sea Smoke Southing on our wine list at Jimmy's and find it to be excellent.

I've known Gus Clark for quite a while now. He has come a long way since his early days at the Auburn Kroger. If he likes it, I want some.

Gus says that the 75 Wine Company Amber Knolls Vineyard Cabernet is a great one. He says it has lots of ripe cherry flavors and good tannins. He likes it with steak or by itself. At \$22, it is a great gift idea.

Founder Tuck Beckstoffer started his winery in the Napa Valley in 1975 – therefore the name. By the way that’s the same year Bill Gates founded Microsoft and Saturday Night Live aired its first episode.

Gus also recommends the new Strong Rogue beer. You can find a good selection at Fine Wines and Beer by Gus.

If you ask me, I always think of dessert wines for gifts. These beautiful little gems are so nice and unusual. They make a wonderful end to a special meal.

My other road to travel is sparkling wines. From Cavas to Champagne, these wines are sure to please and are always perceived as special.

My one other thought is to give Dad a Riesling or Gewurztraminer rather than a strong red wine for his next barbeque. These wines will keep the mouth clear and clean for the next rich bite. They also balance spicy and hot flavors perfectly.

There are lots of wine clubs out there that have memberships in all price ranges. These will ship wines on a recurring schedule so that Dad will remember you all yearlong.

There are beer clubs just like those that offer wine. A couple of six-packs will arrive on a regular basis.

But you can keep it local. Like Rick Horne told me, “Just come in and ask. We will help you find the perfect gift for the Dad in your family.” That’s true for Christine and Gus, too.

You can also go down the food road. You can put together a gift basket of goodies you know he’ll like. Include a local restaurant gift card and he can also have a great lunch from you. Get a basket you like and he’ll probably give it back to you. He wants the food.

Giving a selection of nostalgic candies is popular these days. I think I’d save that one for cooler weather. That bag of Sugar Babies is likely to be a single blob when it arrives. The Junior Mints won’t make it either.

If that driving a racecar idea I talked about earlier interests you, contact the Atlanta Motor Speedway. They have several options available that will put Dad in a stockcar or even behind the wheel. All you have to do is give him a ride and go shopping while he's in school.

If you were getting something for me, a book is always welcome. If the Dad in your family thinks that way, consider "Serious Barbecue: Smoke, Char, Baste, and Brush Your Way to Great Outdoor Cooking" by Adam Lang. It's the perfect choice for your grill master. This new book covers barbecue and grilling from A to Z. It is certain to be the source of some good eats this summer.

The most frugal yet rewarding idea I know is telling Dad about [dailylit.com](http://dailylit.com). This is a great website. It has most of the classic literature library and lots of contemporary works as well. The deal is you get an installment sent to your email as often as you wish until you read a book. Not only is it that simple, most of them are free.

The good thing is you can give yourself [dailylit](http://dailylit.com) and he'll won't know unless you tell.

Another interesting website is [fancast.com](http://fancast.com). At this spot you can watch full episodes of TV shows. This isn't just the older stuff. Current shows are available as well. Tell Dad about it or keep it a secret. Then you can watch what you missed during a sports fest and he'll never know.

Hopefully you have gotten some gift ideas for making Father's Day special for Dad. A consumable is always a good idea. Remember that he doesn't need another tie, unless it's spelled Thai.