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The 12 Bottles of Christmas

By Charles Passy

There are 12 days left to Christmas for our 12 Bottles of Christmas — buying for that special someone, or a spirits aficionado. (But we you're deserving of one of these purpose of a holiday bonus, after

Looking for more ideas? Check 2010. Oh, and happy holidays!

The All-American Bottle: When made in the good ol' U.S.A., American flavor and character whiskey, that means bourbon — we've tasted recently is Booker's

Collection (\$ overproof wh content — it smooth and s overpowering can always c alternative? bears the star who has fou latest: the sil Melka Wines

(\$125), praised by Wine Enthusiast for its "explosive flavors," from Parallel Napa Valley.



Looking for a wine alternative? Consider just about anything from California that bears the stamp of Philippe Melka, a Bourdeaux-born winemaker who has found his true identity in America. Among Melka's latest: the 2009 Black Diamond Cabernet Sauvignon (\$125), praised by Wine Enthusiast for its "explosive flavors," from **Parallel Napa Valley**.