

CyberLocal

You can get great gifts from local retailers and still do all your shopping online.

STORY BY CATHERINE S. MITSEAS

It's so easy now to shop through online big-box retailers that we forget we can find easy-to-send gifts in our own back yard. Everything you love – and your friends will adore, too – is available online from a business near you. With minimal effort, you can both support local retailers and stay safe. Here are nine Tampa Bay companies featuring unique items for sale through their ecommerce sites, complemented by customer service sure to exceed any mega-store's best-programmed bot.



Bernie's & Son Jeweler

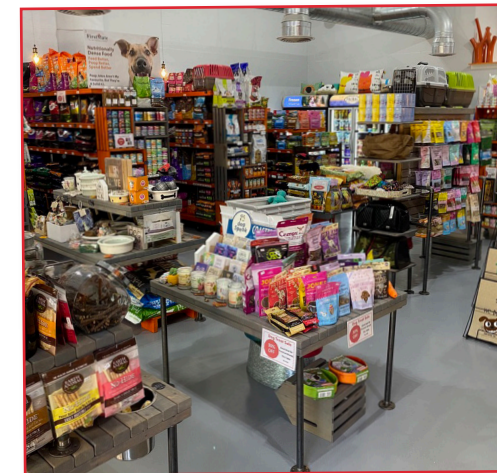
berniesandsonjeweler.com, 727-823-2000

That rare find among retailers – comprehensive selection backed by stellar customer service and a proven, 43-year-old track record. The longest-lasting jewelry store on Beach Drive in St. Petersburg, Bernie's covers all the basics – tennis bracelets, diamond pendants, unique and rare designers – all ready to order online and ship anywhere in the country. Finish your purchase by choosing a custom gift-wrapped branded box or wrapped in a plain box to ensure a surprise. Custom jewelry design is available online as well, although most creatives check out the piece in person before selecting “buy.”

Carter's Florist

carter florist.com, 800-327-5568

Founded in 1956, this St. Petersburg florist showcases high-quality florals paired with candles, wines and locally sourced gift items in one-of-a-kind arrangements. Although the shop has grown far beyond its beginnings as a simple retail florist – its commercial division designs the winter decor each year at the Renaissance Vinoy — owner Terry Hagstrom still insists the best flowers are found at neighborhood florists and delivered nearby. Carter's “Home for the Holidays” arrangement features products from Sweet Divas Chocolates and Kahwa Coffee and is available online and delivered regionally. BTW: Hagstrom wanted us to tell you: “Stop by and say hello and don't forget to ask to see our chickens... seriously!”



PetWorks

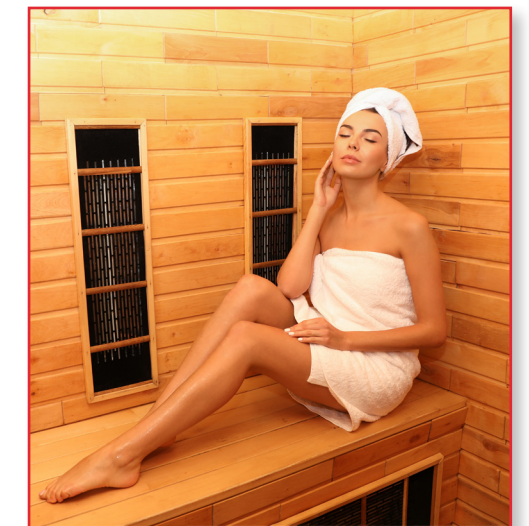
petworksmarket.com, 727-954-4577

Opened in downtown St. Petersburg in December 2019, PetWorks quickly gained a reputation for selling naturally-based, mostly organic products made with zero chemical components for dogs and cats. Owner Kelli Garrity and husband Robert also house a plethora of holiday tchotchkes — from Christmas and Hanukkah dog cookies to ornaments, collars and toys — all ready to properly stuff any stocking. Go to their website and bundle a selection of grooming products, supplements or toys for same-day delivery locally or for shipping across country. All gifts are packaged in nicely branded gift boxes and are guaranteed to satisfy.

Salt Essentials Wellness

SaltEssentialsWellness.com, 727-275-SALT (7258)

This newly opened spa in Largo features a lovely, calm ambience offering full-body massages, Halotherapy (dry salt), infrared sauna and magnetic resonance therapy services to ease a myriad of conditions. Owner Karen Koch says the spa serves both adults and children. Choose to ship one of their “Get Salted for the Holidays Packages,” which include a 16 oz. Himalayan Salt Bath and 16 oz. Grinder Salt along with \$50 Gift Card for \$60 or a \$100 Gift Card for \$110. Or opt for a Children's Himalayan Night Light and Boo Boo Cream, with \$25 Gift Card for \$50.



Salt Pines

saltpines.com, 844-800-8880

The owner of this Hyde Park Village retailer, Andrew Smith, selects merchandise with one idea in mind – helping people live their most enjoyable outdoor lives. Stock ranges from fanciful bowties to vintage casual dress shirts to lightweight hoodies for fun and fishing. Women's wear includes baubles, dresses and accessories with a touch of Southern charm. My top picks — Toadfish Outfitters' Stowaway Cutting Board and “Put ‘Em Back™” Oyster Knife. But the one can't-live-without gift? Costa Del Mar Dry Case — it keeps keys and wallet safe and dry, fits most phones, and latches easily onto boats and backpacks. Order online and add a personalized message to notes section. Smith will ensure it is handwritten on a stock card and included in your gift.

Sartorial Inc.

sartorialinc.com, 727-290-6783

Owned by the delightful Jose Martinez and established in 2017, St. Pete's comfort-meets-fashion men's store Sartorial Inc. rapidly gained a fan base even in the midst of the COVID-19 shutdown. This holiday, consider lightweight flannel shirts by Duck Head or USA-made Raleigh Denim Workshop slim-fit sweatshirts. Sartorial's American-made clothing stock includes Bills Khakis and Halsey 44 as well as accessories specialists Roma Industry, Lewis Accardi and Truefit & Hill, among others. Martinez will add a personal note upon request and deliver your gift in time for the holidays.



HOLIDAY: Shopping



The Shave Cave

theshavecave.com, 727-914-7700

Owned by Max Glazer, The Shave Cave in St. Petersburg's Sundial complex proffers products made in-house and sells items useful to every bearded male, including beard bombs, oils and conditioners in invigorating scents like Tobacco Vanilla, Signature Citrus and Sandalwood Lavender. For the smooth-faced love of your life, pre-shave oil, shaving cream and aftershave, along with razors, brushes and tools, provide proven solutions to ages-old grooming challenges. All are sold on The Shave Cave's ecommerce site along with a selection of holiday gift boxes. This full-service barber shop, and soon-to-arrive men's spa, prides itself on helping men feel comfortable feeling their best.

Syd Entel Galleries/Susan Benjamin Glass Etc.

sydentelgalleries.com, 727-725-1808

Established in 1980 in downtown Safety Harbor and representing hundreds of artists, Syd Entel/Susan Benjamin offers a delightful array of charmingly giftable artwork online: glass woven bracelets, paperweight-sized hand-blown glass sculptures, even whimsical silver or gold salt and pepper shakers. For the holidays, master glass blowers turn their sights to ornaments available only once a year. Everything in the online shop can be shipped directly and personalized with handwritten notes and gift-wrapped, if requested, with a bio of the artist included in each box. Owner Susan Benjamin is happy to answer questions about pieces not listed in the shop and can ship items directly from the artist.

Pictured: Pendant by Alex Sepkus.



Woodfield Fine Art Gallery

woodfieldfineart.com, 727-254-6981

For the last five years Woodfield Fine Art Gallery and its owner, Jim Woodfield, have introduced St. Pete to dozens of local artists — 46 at present, many living within 50 miles of the city. If your gift list includes an art aficionado who prefers to collect work produced in the Tampa Bay area, a virtual trip to the Woodfield website should be on your list. Delivery and installation available locally and Woodfield guarantees purchases; if the piece does not work in your space or is shy of expectations, call him up and he'll make it right.

Pictured at left: "Autumn Showers," a watercolor by John Bayalis.



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