

## SOUVENIRS TO COME HOME TO

Ultimately, our trips take us back where we started, but that doesn't mean you can't take something with you. Illustrations by TRISH LIM & PAT LUSPO.

**1) An ostrich bag from Cape Town.** The Tavern of the Seas is the place to pick up your ethically sourced goods. Also the largest city in South Africa, Cape Town is also home to some of the most exotic and well-equipped leather tanneries in the world. Known particularly for their ostrich leather, their quintessential aesthetic accessory is the ostrich tote bag, which comes in a variety of colors and styles.

**2) Khokhloma from Moscow.** A form of Russian art hailing from 17th century Nizhny Novgorod, Khokhloma is the name for a specific style of painting usually done on wooden pieces. It is traditionally presented as a red and gold flower pattern, although the craft has also evolved to include other themes of nature, such as animals, plants and branches.

**3) Chef's Knives from Japan.** From traditional samurai swords to kitchen knives, there's hardly any place that takes higher pride in their craftsmanship than Japan. While carrying around swords were banned after the Meiji restoration, swordsmiths

continued to produce their art — as cutlery. Take home a set and you might never need a new cutting edge again.

**4) Salmiakki Salty Liquorice from Helsinki.** This delicacy is a childhood favorite among the Finnish, but it comes on a bit strong if you haven't been previously acquainted. The taste has an almost astringent quality due to the ammonium chloride in the mix. Regardless, the flavor of Salmiakki has colored most confectionaires and treats in Helsinki, from candy to ice cream to vodka.

**5) Oeil De Perdrix Rose Champagne from Switzerland.** There's no denying the classic luxury of a bottle of champagne — pop a bottle of Oeil de Perdrix Rose in Switzerland, made from the finest Pinot Noir. While this class of champagne has French origins, it is a common specialty in the heavily French-influenced area of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. This is a drink best enjoyed chilled.



**6) Ganjifa from Delhi.** Even if you aren't going to be playing them, a set of Ganjifa cards are quite the looker. These ancient playing cards usually come in circular form — 96 beautiful cards in eight suits — and are designed using an indigenous form of scroll painting known as the pattachitra technique. While they are said to have originally come from Persia, India is currently the only country you can buy them.

**7) Conservas from Barcelona.** Eating out of the can is not a bad idea in sunny Barcelona. Going against the grain of regular canned foods, these Spanish delicacies are also called *conservas* and have much in common with a bottle of fine wine — each gourmet ingredient is carefully chosen, mixing together only to get better with time. In Barcelona, conservas are often served as hors d'oeuvres, enjoyed with a glass of wine.

**8) Mikkeller Beer from Copenhagen.** While the name Mikkeller Beer has grown to be familiar in other parts, Copenhagen is the home of this top-notch brewery. In fact, it all started here, a

decade ago, with physics teacher Mikkel Borg Bjergsø playfully experimenting with malt and yeast in his kitchen. Today, Mikkeller produced unique brews with flavors like chipotle chili, lychee, Vietnamese coffee... Skål!

**9) A Bowler Hat from La Paz.** Bowler hats and big skirts — it's an iconic image, emblematic of that eclectic Bolivian energy. The story goes that a couple of brothers produced bowler hats meant to be sold to railway workers, but produced them with rims too small. They then invented a rumor about the fashion trend of bowler hats to entice women to buy them instead.

**10) Playmobil toy sets from Amsterdam.** Amsterdam is one of the world's most family-friendly tourist destinations. It houses a number of kid-friendly museums; for one, the gift shop of Rijksmuseum offers an array of Playmobil sets, including ones depicting Rembrandt's "The Night Watch" and Vermeer's "The Milkmaid". A great takeaway from this playful, cultural city — plus a little nostalgic tug on your heartstrings.

