

# Giving Experiences

Mercedes Thomas

TIRED OF GIVING THE SAME PREDICTABLE GIFTS? THIS YEAR GIFT AN EXPERIENCE—AND MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST.

WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE. LOOKING OVER OUR holiday shopping list, we come across that name that stumps us. Every year. Maybe she insists she doesn't need anything, or he already has everything he wants. Or maybe you just can't think of a gift worthy of someone that special to you.

What to do?

Experience gifts are gaining traction, and are special presents for the trickiest folks on your list. More pluses: these gifts involve less wrapping, less waste and are less likely to be re-gifted.

For experience gift ideas to fit everyone on your list—and to fit every budget—read on.

## ONE-NIGHT ONLY EXPERIENCES

For adrenaline-racing fun, brain-racking mysteries and all-star performances, *County Lines* country has a lot to offer!

Axe throwing is all the rage, with throwing lanes at **The Creamery in Kennett Square** and at brand new **Stumpy's Hatchet House** in West Chester. "It's an exhilarating, safe activity that can be enjoyed by a large demographic," says Brad Wurtz of Stumpy's. So grab tickets for you and a friend for an axe-citing night!

Another idea for someone looking for something new—get their heart racing with indoor skydiving at **iFLY** in King of

Prussia or enter a brand new reality at West Chester's **Neverland Virtual Reality**. For the amateur detective on your list, give a visit to an escape room. You'll find them everywhere, including **Xscape The Room** in Media or **Escape Room Mystery** in King of Prussia.

"Escape rooms are those experiences that people may want for themselves, but often put it off, maybe because they have never done one or for budget reasons," says Noel Keen of Escape Room Mystery. "Gifting it truly gives them something they might never have bought for themselves."

And you can't go wrong with a classic—dinner and a show. Buy tickets to an upcoming performance at Malvern's **People's Light, Media Theater** or the **Resident Theater Company** in West Chester, and make dinner reservations for two nearby.

## TRAVELS & TOURS

Trekking through dense forests, sunbathing on a relaxing cruise, tasting your way through the cuisine of a new country—wanderlust is nothing new. So for the boldest on your list, why not give a once-in-a-lifetime travel experience?

"Gifting an experience is very different because it's something the person will be doing versus receiving," says Scott Masciarelli



Try something new at Stumpy's Hatchet House



US Hot Air Balloon Team



Add on a wildlife safari to that special someone's trip



A yoga class at Focus Fitness Main Line