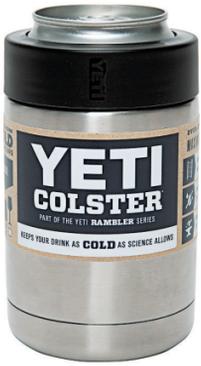


HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

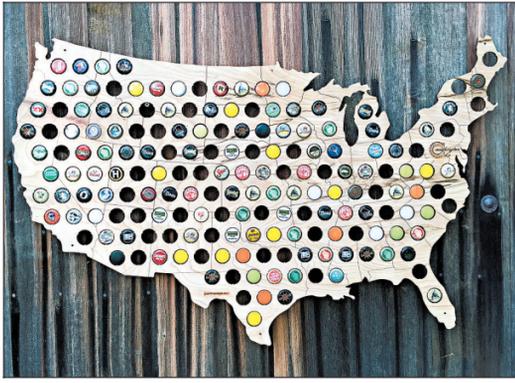
Picks for beer geeks

By **JOSH NOEL**
Chicago Tribune



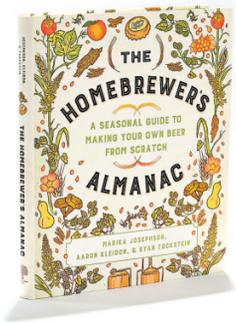
DAVE MEAD

Yeti Rambler Colster, \$29.99, www.yeti.com. It's time to move past the 14 cheap foam koozies stuffed in your drawers and cabinets in favor of one sleek, sturdy, double-walled, stainless steel effort from Yeti. Looks cool. Keeps the beer even cooler.



BEER CAPS MAP

Beer Cap Maps, \$39-\$75, www.beercapmaps.com. What's in the bottle is most important, but beer caps are their own special kind of prize and mini canvases for breweries to express themselves. The problem is, what to do with them? Beer Cap Maps provide state maps, country maps, continent maps and a world map in wood and metal to catalog the places you've been and the beers you've downed.



The Homebrewer's Almanac, \$22.95 www.scratchbeer.com. Southern Illinois brew-pub Scratch Brewing Co. has generated ample buzz for its wildly inventive beers made with of-the-earth ingredients found in "gardens, farmers markets and deep in the woods." This homebrew recipe book brings the experience to your kitchen, basement, garage — or wherever your homebrew setup lies.



RIEDEL

Riedel Veritas beer glass, \$34.50, www.riedelusa.net. Riedel has long made some of the most distinguished glassware in the beer industry, and its latest, introduced last summer, is its thinnest and most refined to date. Handsome, elegant and inarguably good for beer (especially compared with the garden-variety pint glass), this is a vessel that elevates the beer drinking experience.



FIZZICS

Fizzics draft system, \$149.99 and up, www.fizzics.com. The poor beer drinker's countertop draft beer system. Place a bottle (or can) inside, stick the tube in, close and pour beer through this battery-powered system that comes with the ability to pour a thick, foamy head. Some people say this makes beer "taste better." That's a stretch. Proper (and clean) glassware and the ability to pour a decent beer are all you really need. But this thing is fun and especially useful with a growler.

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