

### 3 Foodie Finds Making Your Holiday Season Better



By Merilee Kern,  
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With 2018 in the rearview mirror, the consumer marketplace is a-buzz with F&B brands eager to ease and enhance your fall season experience—and the holiday shopping cycle just beyond. With so much to choose from amid an influx of innovation, what’s truly worth “falling” for? Here are a few notable solutions that exemplify ingenuity:

**Cauldryn Battery Heated Mug** ([www.cauldryn.com](http://www.cauldryn.com)) - \$129.99 Those indelibly on-the-go will love Cauldryn. This heated, battery-powered mug keeps your coffee, tea, soup and other liquids at your selected temperature all day long, making each sip perfect. Pick any temperature from room temp to boiling, and Cauldryn precisely maintains it thanks to its 10-hour battery life. Use the arrow buttons on the bottle to set your temperature, or use the free phone app to control it from a distance. The app also brews green tea and cooks freeze dried food. And, Cauldryn’s modular design means the battery and heating element are removable for easy cleaning.

**Lenovo Smart Display** ([www.Lenovo.com](http://www.Lenovo.com)) - \$199.99 - \$249.99 Here’s a cool way to make cooking easier—and your home smarter: the Lenovo Smart Display. Stylish and easy to use, this device will be there to help, inform, or entertain—anytime. Use it to streamline your tasks so you can spend more time on what

matters most, like catching up with friends or having some quality “me time.” The Lenovo Smart Display does more than typical smart speakers thanks to a brilliant touchscreen, that’s available in 8” or 10” options. You can also do it all hands-free, using only your voice to ask your assistant questions and command it. Just utter the phrase “Hey Google” to get started. You can bring up a recipe, watch cooking videos on YouTube and check your dinner commute or the weather en route. Use it to browse Google Photos, video call friends and family, and so much more. You can also customize your routines for any scenario and set up voice match for a more personalized experience.

**GigiBees Eco Food Wraps & Reusable Metal Straws** ([www.GigiBees.com](http://www.GigiBees.com)) - \$3.00-\$20.00 And finally, with all of the holiday entertaining ahead, let’s not forget that creating an eco-friendly kitchen is easier than ever these days thanks to innovations that make living green efficient and economical. That’s certainly the case with items from GigiBees—an online store specializing in eco-friendly, reusable products to help create a zero waste home. This includes GigiBees Eco Food Wraps that provide an effective alternative to plastic wrap and other single-use disposable products in your home or office. Made with sustainable ingredients like high-quality, natural beeswax and jojoba or coconut oil, which is applied to 100 percent organic cotton,



these unique and reusable wrappers mold around your food so you can store it and keep it fresh. GigiBees Eco Food Wraps are practical, naturally anti-bacterial, compostable and they look great. So say “goodbye” to single-use cling wrap, plastic and aluminum foil, and ditch the disposables forever. Each Eco Food Wraps order is handmade and packed personally, ensuring you get a quality product every time. Also check out GigiBees Reusable Metal Straws—perhaps the last straw you will ever need. These reusable 10-inch, stainless steel straws bend and twist to your liking and are easy to clean using just soap and hot water (and with a straw brush if necessary). Your straw can be repeatedly boiled, sterilized, oven baked, and is also dishwasher safe.

Merilee Kern is an internationally-regarded consumer product trends expert and hospitality industry voice of authority—a travel, dining, leisure and lifestyle expert who spotlights noteworthy marketplace innovations, change makers, movers and shakers. Read her online at [www.TheLuxeList.com](http://www.TheLuxeList.com).

## Is There a Legal Recipe for Success?

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FOODS

#### BUTCHER’S GRANDSON: Try the Beef Cheeks

My grandfather was a Chicago butcher, and he instilled in me an appreciation for the parts of the animal often discarded by supermarket-minded shoppers. Butchers knew better, and we often ate far better on far less cost. An ideal cut for colder weather, beef cheeks make for a rich, tender meal, whether it’s braised on top of homemade egg noodles, in a dutch oven or a hardy pot pie filling. Beef cheeks can be cooked for anywhere between three and eight hours for flavoursome, melt-in-your-mouth meat. This often-overlooked cut is taken from the cheek of the animal, and generally weighs around 12-14 ounces. The muscle is dense and sinewy from consistent exercise when the cow chews. Ask your butcher to clean off some of this sinew for easier at-home preparation. —Mark Braun

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