



# BORN-IN-THE-USA FAVORS

Chances are you're expecting a host of out-of-towners for your big event, so why not thank them for their travels with a taste (literal or not) of local flavor? Personalize your party by celebrating your home turf—whether it's a twist on Mississippi mud pie or a fine California wine. Here, we rounded up special items from every state in the union.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRYAN GARDNER  
TEXT BY BECKY MICKEL

## ALABAMA

A Birmingham institution, **Jim 'N Nick's Community Bar-B-Q** sells the makings for its celebrated side dish in homespun sacks of **Cheese Biscuit Mix**. Just add "Enjoy!" tags—and leave the butter to your guests (\$6, jimnicks.com).



## ALASKA



Its name may sound fishy, but **Simple Pleasures Salmonberry Jam** is made from a must-try raspberry-like native of the wild Northwest (\$5.50, alaskasimplepleasures.com).

## ARIZONA

Quarried and cut from in-state rock, each **Natural Sandstone Coaster** is unique. Give one with an ice-cold beverage to beat the dry heat (\$4 each for 100 to 300 coasters, arizonagifts.com).



## ARKANSAS



Guests won't "mine" leaving the Natural State if they receive **Quartz Clusters from Jim Coleman Crystal Mines**—one of the area's most renowned keepsakes (\$180/flat of 35, jimcolemancrystals.com).

## CALIFORNIA

No need to turn to France when the lush Napa Valley—and its **Honig Vineyard and Winery**—is nearby. The **2014 sauvignon blanc** makes a crisp, fresh summer sipper (\$15.25 each for 12 bottles or more, honigwine.com).



## COLORADO

Fuel day-after hikes (and help any lingering hangovers) with **Olde Man Granola**, hand-baked in eight flavors, including a mix free of gluten and nuts (\$6 for 12 oz, oldegranola.com).



## CONNECTICUT

Bells will be ringing from the moment you say "I do" with chimes from a custom **Bevin Bros. Brass Tea Bell**, produced by a historic family firm and topped with New England wood (from \$7.50 each, bevinbells.com).



## DELAWARE

Rehoboth brewpub-turned-brewery **Dogfish Head** crafts many good ales, but we suggest **Midas Touch** for a special draft—it's nothing short of liquid gold (from \$2.75 a bottle, totalwine.com).



## FLORIDA

**Anastasia Confections' Fruit Squares** from the Sunshine State are like grown-up gummies, but with a citrusy tang (\$5 for 12, anastasiaconfections.com).



## GEORGIA

Ripe peaches and hints of orange and ginger make **Emily G's Peach Marmalade** a piquant morning-on-the-porch treat—or a tasty afternoon pairing for a soft cheese like Brie (\$8.50, emilygs.com).



## HAWAII



Grown on the west coast of the island for decades, **Maui Coffee Co. Maui beans** brew up a rich, dark cup that can be enjoyed with coconut milk, as the locals do (\$8 each for 12 or more, mauicoffee.com).

## IDAHO

No small potatoes here: **Idaho Candy Co.'s Idaho Spud candy bar**—marshmallow coated with dark chocolate and coconut—has been a local favorite since 1918 (\$22 for 24 bars, idahospud.com).



## ILLINOIS



You're sweet; he's salty (or vice versa)? Mirror that dynamic with **Garrett Popcorn Shops' Garrett Mix**, an addictive medley of flavored CaramelCrisp and CheeseCorn (\$141 for 6½ gallons, garrettopopcorn.com).

## INDIANA

In 1957, long before the blossom took over Pinterest—and won the hearts of brides everywhere—the **peony** was named this state's official bloom (\$3 a stem, fragrantfarms.com).

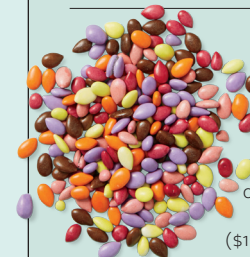


## IOWA



In a farm state where pork rules, it's only fitting to let your guests pig out on hard **Bacon Candy**. The tin alone is a worthy souvenir (\$7 a tin, heartofiowa marketplace.com).

## KANSAS



**Sunny Seeds Chocolate-Covered Sunflower Seeds** commemorate the state's flower—and one of its biggest crops—with a colorful, crunchy confection (\$1.25 for 1 oz, sunflowerfoodcompany.com).

## KENTUCKY

Natives sip **Knob Creek Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey** on the rocks or with mint, sugar, and water for a classic Derby cocktail; this mini lets guests pick their poison (\$5.50 for 50 ml, thepartysource.com).



## LOUISIANA



A staple in any self-respecting Cajun kitchen, **Bruce Foods Original Louisiana Hot Sauce** has a historic pedigree and will bring major heat to guests' marinades and gumbos (65¢, brucefoods.com).

## MAINE

The state's official treat (who knew?) gets a new, shell-like shape in **Cranberry Island Kitchen's Whoopie Pies**, a delicious amalgam of cake, pie, and cookie (\$44 for 12, cranberryislandkitchen.com).



## MARYLAND

Locals swear by **Old Bay Seasoning**, named after a U.S. steamship that once cruised the Chesapeake, for spicing up crabs and seafood alike (\$6, themarylandstore.com).



### MASSACHUSETTS



Your wedding is history in the making, so send both rebels and patriots home with English, Scottish, and Irish **Breakfast Tea** from **Mark T. Wendell Tea Company**, founded more than a century ago (\$29.50 for a 3-tin sampler, [marktwendell.com](http://marktwendell.com)).

### MONTANA



An order of **Huckleberry Haven's Wild Huckleberry Buttermilk Flap Jack Mix** includes a jar of jam, made with the indigenous berry, to flavor pancakes or use as a topping (\$7, [giftcorral.com](http://giftcorral.com)).

### NEW MEXICO



Partygoers won't need a green thumb to maintain a **Plants of the Southwest cactus**. Once potted, the state's wild native succulent will thrive indoors on a sunlit windowsill (\$5.25, [plantsofthesouthwest.com](http://plantsofthesouthwest.com)).

### OKLAHOMA



With their blend of Kansas City and Texas barbecue traditions, Okies take their sauce seriously—and they've been flocking to **Head Country Original Bar-B-Q Sauce** since 1947 (\$20 for 6, [headcountry.com](http://headcountry.com)).

### SOUTH DAKOTA



The sisters (born 11 months apart) who founded handmade **Irish Twins Soap Co.** favor earthy scents like Black Hills Legend Rustic, an ode to the pine on a nearby range (\$6, [irishtwinssoaps.com](http://irishtwinssoaps.com)).

### VIRGINIA



If this state is for lovers, then **The Monticello Shop's Love-in-the-Mist Seeds** make a fitting gift—and require only water and TLC from recipients to get something growing (\$3/pack, [monticelloshop.org](http://monticelloshop.org)).

### MICHIGAN



In a state known for this super fruit, **Cherry Republic**, a family-run company for more than 25 years, adds a tart, sweet coating to its **Sour Cherry Patches** (\$5 for 8 oz, [cherryrepublic.com](http://cherryrepublic.com)).

### NEBRASKA



Cool off your Cornhusker State guests with **eCreamery Personalized Ice Cream Party Cups**. You can create your own flavor—three toppings included—and have your names printed on the container (\$300 for 100, [ecreamery.com](http://ecreamery.com)).

### NEW YORK



This 55-acre vineyard just outside the Big Apple sources its fruit from New York State orchards for **Wölffer's No. 139 Dry Rosé Cider** (it also sells a white version with citrus notes; \$4, [woelffer.com](http://woelffer.com)).

### OREGON



**Pendleton Woolen Mills Notebooks** interpret the textile brand's popular heritage blanket patterns onto paper with a quality as long-lasting as the century-old family business (\$13 for 3, [pendleton-usa.com](http://pendleton-usa.com)).

### TENNESSEE



The organic cacao beans in **Olive & Sinclair's Smoked Nib Brittle** are cured at the famous Benton's smokehouse in Madisonville, then coated in brittle and dark chocolate (\$15 for 6 oz, [oliveandsinclair.com](http://oliveandsinclair.com)).

### WASHINGTON



Loved ones will be "full of great enthusiasm" (the translation for West Coast coffee staple **Espresso Vivace**) after a night of revelry. Keep them buzzing with **Northern Italian Roast** (\$14 for 12 oz, [espressovivace.com](http://espressovivace.com)).

### MINNESOTA



An ancient grain that has never been modified (unlike most), **Moose Lake Wild Rice** grows naturally before being hand-harvested (\$67.50 for 10 lbs; \$1.50/bag, [mooselakewildrice.com](http://mooselakewildrice.com)).

### NEVADA



Without having to play the tables, your lucky friends will hit the candy jackpot with a bag of **Milk Chocolate Poker Chips** (\$45 for 340, [vegasimage.com](http://vegasimage.com)).

### NORTH CAROLINA



Handcrafted using just four ingredients, **Big Spoon Roasters Peanut Butter** has wildflower honey already mixed in—so guests can skip the jelly and bread and just dig in (\$10, big [spoonroasters.com](http://spoonroasters.com)).

### PENNSYLVANIA



The original sourdough recipe for **Uncle Jerry's Handmade Pennsylvania Dutch Pretzels** was written 100 years ago and tastes just as good today (\$28 for 12 bags, [unclejerryspretzels.com](http://unclejerryspretzels.com)).

### TEXAS



**Larry's Bag-of-Smoke** belies the notion that everything is bigger in Texas. Guests can throw a wallet-sized cotton packet of Lone Star wood chips onto the grill to flavor barbecue with hickory, mesquite, and other seasonings (\$5, [fourstjames.com](http://fourstjames.com)).

### WEST VIRGINIA



You can't get more down to earth than **J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works salt**, which contains brine sourced from ancient seawater trapped beneath the Appalachian Mountains (\$5 for 1 oz, [jqdsalt.com](http://jqdsalt.com)).

### MISSISSIPPI



**Jubilations Cheesecakes Mississippi Mud Mini Cheesecakes** marry two sinfully delicious desserts into a creamy, chocolate-topped confection. Here's mud in your eye! (\$36 for 12, [jubilations.com](http://jubilations.com)).

### NEW HAMPSHIRE




Give a chill gift with **Sea Stones On the Rocks** drink stones, cut from the Granite State's namesake slab. The ready-to-freeze cubes keep revelers' refreshments cold without watering them down (\$22 for 6, [sea-stones.com](http://sea-stones.com)).

### NORTH DAKOTA



This Great Plains state produces more honey than any other. The sweet liquid in **A Touch of Honey's Honey Jar** goes straight from the hives into bottles at this family-run operation (\$5.25/lb, [tofhoney.com](http://tofhoney.com)).

### RHODE ISLAND



Appeal to sailors and landlubbers alike at weddings in the Ocean State with a **BeachArt by Chrissie Monkey Fist Knot**. The tied rope can decorate car keys or luggage tags (\$36 for 12, [beachartbychrissie.etsy.com](http://beachartbychrissie.etsy.com)).

### UTAH



Give your friends and family something to write home about with personalized **Peak & Pine Handmade Burned Pine Pencils**, made from foraged local wood (\$4 each, [peakandpine.etsy.com](http://peakandpine.etsy.com)).

### WISCONSIN



Say a final "cheese" with **Fromagination's Wedding Favor Package**, a trio of the dairyland's award-winning artisanal fromage, crackers, and preserves (from \$9, [fromagination.com](http://fromagination.com)).

### MISSOURI



Turn to **books by local literary greats** to help guests pass travel time home. Consider works by natives Mark Twain, T.S. Eliot, Maya Angelou, or Langston Hughes (\$6, [themizzoustore.com](http://themizzoustore.com)).

### NEW JERSEY



**James' Original Salt Water Taffy** will give loved ones a taste of the boardwalk (minus the sand). Choose from nearly 30 flavors, like Bay Breeze, to fill a custom box (\$10 for 1 lb, [jamescandy.com](http://jamescandy.com)).

### OHIO



**Anthony-Thomas Chocolates' Buckeyes**, named not for the football team but for the domestic nut they resemble, will win plenty of fans (\$5 for 6, [anthony-thomas.com](http://anthony-thomas.com)).

### SOUTH CAROLINA



Hot southern nights call for cold G&Ts with **Jack Rudy Cocktail Co.'s Small Batch Tonic**, a mixer sweetened with cane sugar. Gift one per couple to stretch your dollar (\$180 for 12, [jackrudycocktailco.com](http://jackrudycocktailco.com)).

### VERMONT



The amber hue of **Syrup Souvenir Shop's 100% Pure Vermont Maple Syrup** is a perfect match for New England's fall colors—and for a stack of country-style pancakes (\$4 for 2 oz, [thesyrupshop.com](http://thesyrupshop.com)).

### WYOMING



Send your cowboys and cowgirls home with one more toast: a raise-worthy **Made Bucking Bronco Pint Glass** to cheer a weekend's worth of memories (\$11, [madejacksonhole.com](http://madejacksonhole.com)).

STYLED BY KATIE COVINGTON. ART DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MCCORMICK