

Three mothers from the worlds of fashion, beauty and lifestyle share what makes a perfect family Christmas for them...

All I want for Christmas...



IMAGE WITH THANKS TO CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA

Charlotte Olympia Dellal, luxury shoe and accessory designer

Before I got married and had children, I used to have hot Christmases spent in Rio (my mother is Brazilian). Now they are spent at home in London; I love having a holiday at home in my own city.

It has become tradition to go out and choose the tree, then decorate it as a family. I have vintage Christmas decorations, but we include ones made by the boys each year – another activity in itself!

Boxing Day is with my in-laws playing Texas Hold'em in fancy dress eating leftover turkey sandwiches and trifle; it's one of my favourite days of the holiday. I love Agatha Christie and spend many a lazy afternoon in the holiday watching Poirot marathons with my husband.

I've recently started to put garlands down my staircase which makes the house immediately feel wonderfully festive. Candles like 'Feu du Bois' and 'Pomander' by **Diptyque** have a perfect Christmas scent. A beautiful table is always important to me and I pay particular attention to small details. I try to have a playlist for music so there's one thing less to worry about and maybe a surprise like an after-dinner game or table setting.



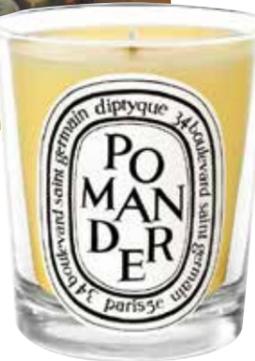
When it comes to present giving I tend to prepare everything in advance. I absolutely adore giving gifts and try to make them as personal as possible, which takes time and a bit of planning. I have three little boys so I take the opportunity to give anyone with girls

Charlotte Olympia Incy shoes!

My favourite boutiques for Christmas shopping always include **Caramel Baby & Child** and **Petit Aimé** on Ledbury



Charlotte (above) and her three boys on Christmas day



Below: Kitten slippers £75 charlotteolympia.com. Left: Pop Bakery's cakes



Road. **Elfie London** makes cute knitwear and special fancy dress pieces. **Honeyjam** on Blenheim Crescent has charming old-fashioned toys. **R.S. Currie and Co** on Westbourne Grove is great for toys and can host and help organise parties. **Pop Bakery** make the most beautiful and delicious cakes in any design you can imagine, kids (and grown-ups) love them. I'm always shopping online and **verbaudet.com** make great basics including homewear for kids rooms and is good value for money. For a truly unique gift **Boyarde Messenger** paints the most amazing murals. My three boys have great designs in their bedrooms including 'Where the Wild Things Are' and Gotham City.

• charlotteolympia.com

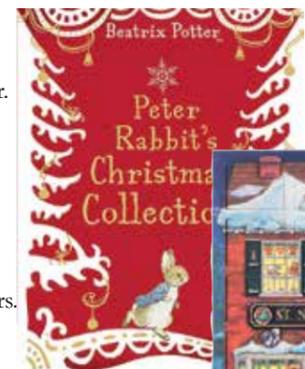
'I love Agatha Christie and spend many a lazy afternoon in the holiday watching Poirot marathons with my husband'



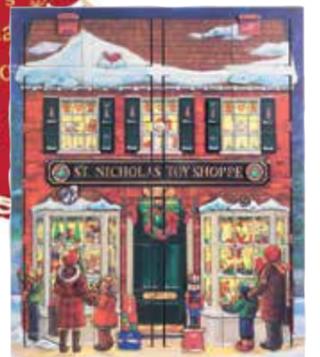
Leonora Bamford, founder of parenting website mybaba.com

Christmas is one of my favourite times of the year. What more could one want than *The Nutcracker*, *Winter Wonderland* and hot chocolate on a daily basis? The fever starts when my mother makes a huge Christmas cake with the kids, making sure to turn the spoon in just the right way. They really enjoy the ritual and this is when the countdown starts, along with the all-important advent calendars.

We normally decamp to the country when term breaks up and spend a few days getting the house ready for Christmas. This has to begin with the tree. I never learn and tend to get the wrong height. My mother always tells me to go for the fattest one, as there's nothing worse than a measly looking tree with no branches to hang things from.



Left: Peter Rabbit's Christmas Collection £11.99, Waterstones. Below: advent calendar, Harrods





Jo Malone MBE, founder of JO LOVES

For me, Christmas is always a very special but low-key affair spent with my husband, our son and the dog at home in London, followed by a huge lunch with friends and family on Boxing

Day. It's important for me to switch off my phone and enjoy being all together.

I'm a real creature of habit and tradition and so nearly every year is the same. We wake up and open our stockings in bed, which I remember doing as a little girl. I absolutely love buying presents and spend months choosing fun and original things for each of my boys. This year I have found the most amazing gadget that you attach to your iPhone to project images and a popcorn maker from **Harrods** for my son. My husband has the most delicious salted caramels from **Crate & Barrel** and a bottle of Sassociaia.

As of midday, I turn off all the lights and only use candles – to cook by, to eat by and to play games and watch movies. It transforms the house and looks absolutely magical! I can't wait to start burning my new Log Fires candle as it gets dark outside to fill the sitting room with the scent of warm, smoky woods. It feels like having a real fire.

We never miss the Queen's speech and cosy up on the sofa together with a glass of Stone's Green Ginger Wine to watch it before I theme the dining room ready for lunch. This year, I am dressing the room in red, white and silver and running the most gorgeous white Norma Jean roses down the centre of the table."

● joloVES.com



Below: Jo Loves Log Fires Luxury Candle £325 2.2kg, Right: Stones Original Green Ginger Wine £6.50

We crank up the Christmas tunes and set to work with the babas. We all wish on the first bauble and each have our favourites; my daughter and I always go for the single black sheep! The children write notes to Father Christmas which they shove up the chimney! I love reading endless books like *Peter Rabbit* and *The Night Before Christmas* – I could easily recite them all from heart.

There's nothing better than taking long walks in the woods, baking cinnamon biscuits, toasting marshmallows on the fire and spending much of our time in ridiculous-looking onesies, which my kids call 'softies'.

It's a family ritual to create our very own Christmas card (see above). My husband used to be a photographer and loves taking a family portrait each year. We wanted it to be fun and inspiring for the children and so it began with *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*, which seemed perfect for Christmas.

I'm crazily organised when it comes to shopping and I've already been surfing on alexandalex.com and I adore shopping at **Liberty of London** for a festive feel. I'm secretly hoping for a **Loquet London** necklace or an **Anya Hindmarch** bag this year!

Christmas is a time for family and an opportunity to switch off. I'm making a vow this year to leave my iPhone in my sock drawer and if I'm a good girl hopefully our Christmas wishes will come true.

● mybaba.com



Top: Leonora and her family as Goldilocks and the three bears for their annual Christmas card. Above: A Loquet London bespoke charm necklace. Below: Anya Hindmarch Ebury tote £1,350

