Savor the Season
Our favorite festivals, events and gift ideas

23 Wines we love for the holidays

Shoes to die for

Plus:
The Goodie Bag
Holiday memories
The Wellbies

Kate Winslet
Hollywood's A-list actress opens up on love, children, and her new films

The Glam Season
Katy Perry, Taylor Swift, Kim Kardashian, Nicole Kidman, Kate Walsh and others who made the naughty and nice list

Hoop dreams
The region's top high school basketball players

Decadent gifts for your pooch
When I think about my most memorable holiday experience, I would have to say it's when I stayed at our children's shelter so that I could be there when they woke up for Christmas morning. First of all, we had a gorgeous tree, fully adorned, which was given to us by an anonymous donor who had bid $1,000 at the Santa Claus, Inc.'s annual holiday event. Thanks to my staff and the generous donations of others, each child at the shelter was able to receive needed items and one thing from their wish list. That morning when I witnessed the pure gratitude and excitement of those kids, my tears began to swell. Many of them hadn't expected anything for Christmas and others looked to their moms for reassurance that it was OK to open those gifts. I already knew that homeless children suffer neglect, but at that moment I realized that they had been missing the beauty of this holiday as well. I was forever reminded of my purpose here on earth.

While holiday scenarios are as unique as the people who experience them, most will agree that the best memories involve simple things like family, friends, and food. Some may look forward to an annual gathering at a relative's home to share a great-grandmother's recipe, others plan family vacations where everyone can relax, reconnect, and take part in shared activities. Whether basking in old traditions or starting new ones, the season is ripe for reflecting on times past, but also for creating new memories that can be savored for years to come. Six Inland Empire residents share their favorite holiday memories, reflecting on times that warmed their hearts.