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INVITING IDEAS

Surprise your host with some nutty gifts



RUTH MOSSON
JOHNSTON

It's time to start thinking about the holidays! Fancy nuts, sweet nuts, savory nuts, and nut butters are a perfect Thanksgiving gift to take to your hosts, or an added treat for your own guests.

■ Chestnuts have great versatility — working well in "sweets" as well as "savories" — soups, purees and butters.

Pecans are the all American nut that everyone associates with the South. Pecans have the versatility of the walnut with the mildness that most palates delight in.

■ Almonds are a favorite eaten as a snack, as coating on fish entrees, as a crunchy addition to salads, or in many desserts.

Do make sure whenever serving or giving nuts, that the recipient is not allergic to these delicious morsels — nut allergies can be deadly! Never hide nuts in a dessert or bread — always let your

guests know if nuts are one of the ingredients included in your recipe, especially if they are not obvious!

Try some of these sumptuous nutty treats:

MARRONS GLACES

1 pound fresh sweet chestnuts,
peeled and boiled (or 1 1/2 pounds
canned chestnuts)

2 cups sugar
1 (16 ounce) jar liquid glucose
8 drops pure vanilla extract
2 cups sugar
3/4 cup cold water
Milk

If using fresh sweet chestnuts — make a slit in the deep brown chestnut skin near the pointed end. Place in a saucepan and cover with boiling water. After 2-3 minutes, remove the chestnuts one at a time and peel off the outer skin, then the inner skin — make sure this is done while they are warm.

Place all of the peeled chestnuts in the saucepan covering with a combination of

See IDEAS, 4D

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