

Gifts from expert chefs' kitchen delight the senses

By [Michelle Healy](#), USA TODAY

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5 celebrity cooks open up to USA TODAY's Michelle Healy about the homemade gifts they stir up.

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•Peanut brittle from Art Smith

Chef Art Smith's resume includes a 10-year stint as [Oprah Winfrey's](#) personal chef, award-winning cookbook author founder of a non-profit organization that uses food and cooking to teach children about diversity and tolerance and owner of five restaurants. The newest, scheduled to open this holiday season in [New York](#), is the much buzzed about Joanne, a joint collaboration with Joe and Cynthia Germanotta, [Lady Gaga's](#) parents. The restaurant will feature elegant Italian family meals, says Smith, known for giving traditional recipes a light, modern approach.

At Table Fifty-Two, Smith's signature Chicago restaurant, that means putting a fresh spin on Southern comfort food. Raised on his family's farm in Jasper, Fla., Smith relishes his Southern roots and Southern home cooking. "I'm very fortunate to do what I love which is take food that I grew up loving and cook and prepare it for others," he says. And that includes traditional homemade treats like his late Grandmother Mabel Jones'

peanut brittle. "She made this every year during the cooler months," says Smith. "High humidity is the only enemy of peanut brittle."

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