Meaningful gifts: sustainable ideas for Christmas

Darmstadt, November 16th, 2017 *** Autumn is wearing on, the weather is gradually growing colder, the Christmas sweets in supermarkets seem less out of place by now and it is about time to think about Christmas presents. In the choice of gifts sustainability becomes more and more important: In 2016, 49 % of the respondents of a survey in Switzerland stated that environmental protection is one of the most important criteria for choosing presents. The Green Pearls® partner hotels set a good example and inspire Christmas surprises that are not only extraordinary but also sustainable.
A treat – not only for honey-lovers

Everyone is talking about bee mortality and the problems going along with it are well known. However, it is less well known how we can counteract it with small steps. A bee sponsorship, for example for the Mosterei & Imkerei Ahrensboek bei Schwerin, provides important financial support for beekeepers. Regular inspections and treatments guarantee the survival of bee colonies, while the sponsor enjoys honey produced by “his” bees. To Christian Petersen, director of the sustainable hotel Speicher am Ziegelsee in Schwerin, a bee sponsorship immediately suggests itself as a Christmas present, because the hotel has been supporting the honey farm for a long time. For the coming year, Petersen is planning to settle a bee colony on the property of the hotel Speicher am Ziegelsee in cooperation with the beekeeper – this especially makes sense, because today the variety of flowers in the city is even larger than in the
EnJOYING WITH A PURPOSE

The Green City Hotel Vauban, that is located in Freiburg in one of Germany’s greenest districts, inspires another gift idea. Here, regionality and social responsibility are particularly emphasized. As an inclusive employer the hotel integrates disabled people, who would have had few chances in the regular labor market, into its team. The concept is catching on: not only employees but also guests love the friendly and familiar atmosphere. To support similar initiatives, the City Hotel mainly receives its foodstuff from regional and inclusive producers, for example the coffee roasting house Zollernalb. Guests can combine a visit there with their stay at the Green City Hotel Vauban to buy an aromatic present for coffee lovers.
Donating in a different way

A classical gift that is socially or environmentally responsible is a donation to a sustainable initiative. The Morena Eco Resort on Curaçao sets an example and supports numerous projects. “Green Kidz” organizes playful workshops on the environment for schools and the pupils can take part in the annual Beach-Cleanups. The organization “Boso Kosecha”, which means “your harvest”, supports children from poor families. Similar initiatives can be found all around the world and by spending a holiday in a sustainable hotel, such as the Morena Eco Resort, guests help on an indirect basis as well.
Something good for body, mind and nature

Ecological or even self-made beauty products are lovely presents that show respect for nature. The “herb fairy” at the Berghotel Rehlegg in the Bavarian Alps, a certified herbalist, took her inspiration from the mountain meadow right behind the hotel. It is home to nearly 70 different medicinal plants and herbs, such as primroses or St John’s wort, and has formed the basis for developing the natural cosmetic line “Rehlegger Kräuterfee”. These beauty articles, produced according to ecological principles and strict European standards, are used in the hotel’s spa and can be purchased in the shop of the Berghotel Rehlegg.
The wellness care line of the **Hotel Outside** in the national park Hohe Tauern in Austria is called **TINAPUR**. It has been developed by Mag. Pharm. Stefan Pickl who works at the Tauernapotheke in Matrei in East Tyrol, a pharmacy that has been awarded with a bio-certificate. Corresponding to its name, which stands for “Tiroler Natur Pur” (pure Tyrolean nature), the care line is based on natural substances. A special gift idea: In special workshops at the **Hotel Outside** participants learn how to make their own balms and soaps from native herbs. Afterwards, they can take their self-made treasures home with them.

The German Green Pearls GmbH with place of business in Darmstadt, Germany unifies international tourism companies that support environmental protection and demonstrate social commitment. Thereby, Green Pearls is the first holding company worldwide that consolidates sustainable hotels, destinations and restaurants in a global data source.

Among the criteria of admission to Green Pearls® Unique Places, are a sustainability plan on management level, sustainable architecture, comprehensive water, energy saving and waste recovery measures, the use of seasonal and regional ingredients in the kitchen, as well as a large commitment for the social balance in each of the vacation regions.

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**Press Contact:**

Green Pearls GmbH  
Dieburgerstrasse 203  
64287 Darmstadt  
T: +49 (0) 6151-273 669 11  
F: +49 (0) 6151-273 669 19  
E: press@greenpearls.com  
W: [www.greenpearls.com](http://www.greenpearls.com)

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