

TOWN & COUNTRY

A close-up portrait of actress Annette Bening. She has short, styled brown hair and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a gold-colored, intricately patterned jacket and a necklace made of large, round, amber-colored beads. The background is a plain, light color.

Star Bright

Annette Bening
Balances a
Booming Career
And Being
Mrs. Beatty

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Annette Bening

In the Country



HANDCRAFTED. While recovering from an ice-hockey injury ten years ago, Marshall Chambers Jr. (top) learned to weave cane Nantucket lightship baskets from his mother. Now, he makes furniture that integrates basket weave and decorative inlays (from \$875; 508-325-5861). Maryland landscape architect Barbara Paca tops 18th- and 19th-century letter, seed and survey boxes (top right) with lead plant labels from



London's Chelsea Physik Garden and lines them with antique velvets, silks and wallpapers. (\$200 to \$1,500; 410-692-5802). **HOMESTEAD.** Christmas in a cottage? Kitsbury (above),



a late-Georgian stone cottage in the Cotswold village of Upper Oddington (£250,000; Knight Frank & Rutley, Oxford; 011-44-1865-790-077). **WELL FED.** **Chocolate:** Fiddle Fern Fudge, from Massachusetts' Berkshire Mountains (from \$35 for twenty pieces; 413-528-2563). **Jam:** the fattest, freshest fruits, from Stonewall Kitchen, York, Maine; our picks are Grand Marnier cranberry marmalade and Wild Maine blueberry jam (from \$6.25; 800-207-JAMS). **A New Caviar:** Caviarteria's sweet, golden-orange trout roe cured in North Carolina (3½ ounces, \$13; 14 ounces, \$45; 800-4-CAVIAR). **Port:** our expert recommends Graham's 1963 (\$190 from Sherry-Lehmann;

212-838-7500). **Cheese:** imported English Colston Bassett Stilton (½-pound block, \$9; 5-pound block, \$75). **Biscuits:** Prince Charles' Duchy Originals are, okay, royally good (ginger and oaten flavors; \$5.50 per box; cheese and biscuits from Zingerman's, Ann Arbor, MI; 313-769-1625). **WELL BRED.** John Jaques & Son, the English games company now celebrating its 200th anniversary, introduced croquet to England in 1851. Hampton Square set (left; \$810; Croquet International Limited, Palm Beach Gardens, FL; 800-533-9061). **OVERHEAD.** Daniel R. Gage will photograph your house and property from his Cessna 152. He's based in Wilton,



Connecticut, and covers much of New England (\$379 for one flyover; \$1,499 for a four-season portfolio; 800-298-3888).