



The 12 days of Christmas

In 2014, Sotheby's sold a copy of *Mirth Without Mischief* for \$23,750, dating from 1780 in which the first version of the famous Christmas carol *Twelve days of Christmas* appeared for the first time.

Some historians believe it could be French and could have been created as a memory game, to help Christians learn and remember the principles of their faith. Though this could and has been refuted by some, let's have a look at what is gifted during the Twelve Days of Christmas.

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me a partridge in a pear tree.

Day 2: two turtle doves

Day 3: three French hens

Day 4: four calling birds

Day 5: five gold rings

Day 6: six geese a-laying

Day 7: seven swans a-swimming

Day 8: eight maids a-milking

Day 9: nine ladies dancing

Day 10: 10 lords a-leaping

Day 11: 11 pipers piping

Day 12: 12 drummers drumming

So many days of festivities, so many outfits! Here is my choice for what I would wear during the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The Twelve days start on the 25th December, and it is a full day of socialising so the perfect purse for this occasion would be an Art Déco velvet and coral bag by Cartier, dating 1920s, which sold at Bonhams for £2,295.



Cartier Art Déco purse

On the 26th, in keeping with the Christmas colours I would wear a sapphire, ruby and diamond swivel ring. Sure to grab people's



Christmas Carol, Sotheby's 2014, estimate \$7,000 - 10,000, Containing The Twelve Days of Christmas; The Play of the Gaping-Wide-Mouthed-Wadling-Frog; Love and Hatred; The Art of Talking with the Fingers; And Nimble Ned's Alphabet and Figures. London: Printed by J. Davenport ... for C. Sheppard, 1780. No copy has appeared at auction in the past 40 years; only 1 copy recorded (Opie collection, Bodleian Library, who dates it c. 1780), all others in Worldcat are e-books. Not in Cotsen"

curiosity if I flip from ruby to sapphire during the course of the day. A ring such as this would sell for approximately £1,000 at auction.



Sapphire, ruby and diamond swivel ring

a renowned jewellery brand!

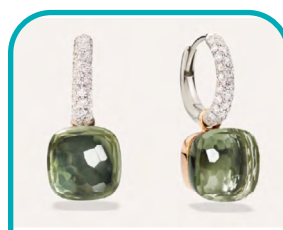
On the 30th, I would wear a jewel set with a restorative gem as the legends have it. This would be quartz. And who else would I wear but Pomellato who have based their



Rose quartz Pomellato ring

name in declining all coloured quartz in every style possible based on one specific design: the Nudo ring.

Ranging from £1,800 with a rose quartz ring, the collection goes up to £5,700 with a pair of prasiolite and diamond earrings.



Prasiolite and diamond earrings

With quartz' powers to energise, remove all negativity and give peace and optimism, I'm all set for New Year's Eve celebrations.



Cartier ruby and diamond brooch
With approximately 2 carats of diamonds, this brooch sold for USD 47,880, with a pre-sale estimate of USD 40,000 – 60,000

On the 27th, when guests have come and gone, I can sit back and admire the Christmas tree. But whilst doing so, I would wear another Cartier piece reminding me of a fancy Christmas tree: a ruby and diamond brooch mounted in platinum dating the 1920s.

On the 28th, to remind me that time is still passing by even though it seems to have stopped for a few days, I would look down at my Patek Philippe 4282 in onyx, malachite and yellow gold with diamond highlights. A combined delight of wearing both an exceptional timepiece and quality jewellery.



Patek Philippe 4282
This watch sold at Dawsons Auctioneers in 2022 for £14,000 against a pre-sale estimate of £2,000-3,000.

On the 31st, I would wear the present I found under the Christmas tree. And just like it was beautifully wrapped, it too looks like a present: the Tilda Bow diamond ring by Graff. With a little over 2 carats of diamonds, it retails for £13,000 and would be the gift that keeps on giving every time you would glance at it!



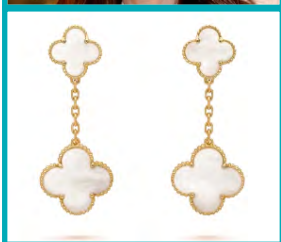
Tilda Bow diamond ring by Graff

2025 will be the year of the Wood Snake in Chinese culture. Snakes symbolise eternity and in zodiac signs, they are said to be hard-working and driven. I can't think of a

better way to start the year and to embody those images. And for that the perfect bangle sold by Bonhams in 2020 for USD 2,800, set with 1.25 carats of diamonds, and coiled in the tradition of snake and serpent bangles found in all antique jewellery.



Diamond and wood snake bangle



Princess of Wales & Van Cleef & Arpels Earrings

On the 29th, there might be some event, show or concert to see. And for this, I would take inspiration from non-other than the Princess of Wales. Last year she wore Van Cleef & Arpels Magic Alhambra earrings, retailing for £6,000, up from £5,400 the previous year. Seems to always be good investment to buy



Tiffany T Smile pendant necklace

On the 2nd January I would subtly remind the people around me how they make me feel with the Tiffany T Smile pendant necklace. Retailing for £3,250 and set with under 0.20 carat of diamond, it could be seen as a costly reminder but worth every penny!

vintage pair of earrings sells for £645.

Finally, as a reminder of the good and bad times, those past and to come, I would choose to wear a diamond eternity ring as I start the new year at work. As a symbol of the circle of life, the unbreakable bonds that make us who we are, and the diamonds' sparkles representing an echo of life's dazzling surprises. Graff's Emerald Cut diamond ring retails for £60,500 and is set with 7.60 carats of diamonds, that's a lot of dazzling!



Graff diamond ring

On the 3rd as I "hit the town" for some shopping to enjoy the new year's sale, I would need something practical to plan my day and for that I choose a Jaeger LeCoultre Reverso Classic Duetto, at £16,500.

These are the jewels I would wear for 12 consecutive days after Christmas. I never said it was going to be a cheap Christmas... Wishing you Best Wishes for the New Year.



Jaeger LeCoultre Reverso Classic Duetto



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Aurélia Turrall has over 20 years of experience in the auction industry, including roles at Christie's, Sotheby's, and Bonhams. A GIA Graduate Gemmologist, she specialises in jewellery valuations and has handled many exceptional pieces.

With its guilloché blue or silver dial to suit day or evening mood, the Reverso is chic and understated with perfect lines. One of my all-time favourites.

On the 4th it would be a day of catching up with friends and discussing the sales purchase. And to do that, pairing a simple outfit with Chanel jewellery seems like it would be the go-to look: faux pearl and paste crystal earrings, in gunpowder metal. This



Chanel earrings