

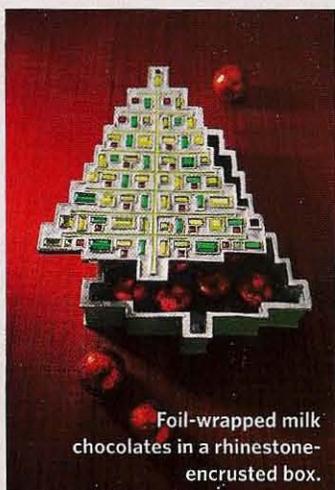
Emeril Lagasse, one of the chefs participating in this year's réveillon feasts in New Orleans.

REVELING IN RÉVEILLON

Réveillon, the long dinner that many French-speaking households enjoy at or close to midnight on Christmas and New Year's Eves, is alive and well in New Orleans. If you have the stamina—for both plentiful amounts of rich food and staying up late (the word *réveillon* comes from the French *réveiller*, which means "to wake")—you can experience the tradition at thirty-six of the city's restaurants during the month of December. Among the participating eateries are two run by Emeril Lagasse: **NOLA** and **Emeril's**

Delmonico. Diners who partake in réveillon at either restaurant can raise a glass to the French while also toasting the fact that a portion of the proceeds raised by Emeril's haute-Creole feasts goes to support the Covenant Café, a local spot run by the city's Covenant House organization and staffed by at-risk youths being trained by culinary professionals. *Four-course dinner, \$65. NOLA, 534 St. Louis Street; 504-522-6652. Emeril's Delmonico, 1300 St. Charles Avenue; 504-525-4937; emerils.com.*

BRETT ANDERSON



Foil-wrapped milk chocolates in a rhinestone-encrusted box.

A NEIMAN NOEL

You won't find a partridge in a pear tree in the 2008 Neiman Marcus Christmas Book. In lieu of birds in bushes, you'll discover more than 350 elegant clothing, jewelry and other gift items, such as the candy box at left (\$70). As you shop, you'll feel good knowing that Neiman uses the catalogue's sales proceeds to make a five-figure donation to the Pediatric Low Grade Astrocytoma Foundation, which funds pediatric brain-cancer research. And if you need a gift for Santa (or yourself), we suggest a tin of the retailer's famed chocolate-chip cookies (\$24). *For a catalogue (\$15), call 800-825-8000.* AMY LEVIN-EPSTEIN

CARING THROUGH COUTURE

Shopping at San Francisco's **Helpers House of Couture** can bring out the child in even the coolest fashion insiders. Better still, the proceeds from their purchases go directly to the local charity Helpers of the Mentally Retarded, an organization that once occupied the turn-of-the-century house that the vintage clothing shop now inhabits. Overseer Joy Venturini Bianchi (below) began volunteering at the original Helpers when she was thirteen. Today her boutique carries designer clothing and accessories, jewelry and midcentury home furnishings. Items are donated by individuals such as Bay Area clothier Wilkes Bashford, who created a men's shop on the second floor; designers Ralph Rucci and James Galanos; and philanthropist Vanessa Getty. The store's offerings recently included a '70s-era red chiffon Valentino evening gown (in the background below; \$2,650) and an irresistible Parisian silk-satin Christian Dior gown (in the foreground; \$2,550). *Strictly by appointment. 2626 Fulton Street; 415-387-3031.*

JOOHEE MUROMCEW

