

BURNING BRIGHT

12.28.21

# 11 Luxurious Candles Perfect for a Cozy Winter Night In

by Maryam Lieberman



Gwyneth Paltrow photographed by Steven Klein for W Magazine, September 2007.

In efforts to quell holiday nerves this year, candles will be burning brightly on nightstands, bathtub ledges, and desks all over the world—delivering tranquility, healing aromas, and a certain ambiance. Given that this is the perfect time of year (for mostly everyone, except your uber-calm yogi friends) to unleash stress and 12 months of bottled-up emotions, a candle or two will serve you and your loved ones well by keeping things chill. Candle makers are certainly no fools to the heightened emotions that emerge during Christmastime—and often release limited-edition scents to both celebrate the season and leverage your unsteady emotions.

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Since they don't make candles infused with Xanax, we have put together a list of the finest candles to debut this year, along with a few timeless favorites. Light a candle this winter to ease your mind, or gift one to a fellow stressed-out holiday hostess, who will certainly appreciate it.

Trudon Gloria: Christmas Edition  
/ \$140

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Jo Malone's classic scent is tasteful in presentation and always smells appropriately uplifting and merry. This is a very serene scent—one that can burn in the living room when you're entertaining or function as a lovely gift; it's bound to please anyone's taste. There's an attractive blend of calm citrus as the base with just the right bit of woody and spice to properly enhance the vibe of a room. Floral notes in this limited-edition formulation make it comforting and simultaneously invigorating on a cold winter night.

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Farmaesthetics Midnight Absolute  
Candle  
/ \$38

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This scent recalls the warm comforts of cabin life, which are captured in a candle crafted with timeless French flair. European beach wood is used as the crackling wick, which evokes the feeling of sitting by the fire. This new scent is a collaboration between Farmaesthetics and Officine Oils of Paris, using a combination of French rapeseed wax, organic apricot oil, and beeswax for the base—with amber, bergamot, and honey standing out. There are also elusive notes of violet flower that lighten the warmer tones to give a clean top note at the very end.

Aromatherapy Associates De-Stress  
Candle  
/ \$69

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This candle will certainly aid in dealing with the most stressful time of the year, calming your nerves with its specialized formulation. Aromatherapy Associates created a new blend of chamomile, clarifying frankincense, and uplifting petitgrain to help ease tension. Each candle holds almost two bottles' worth (about 10 ml.) of essential oils. The resulting scent is clean, harmonious, and healing.

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