

## Ready to wrap!

From a limited budget to full luxury, the best holiday shopping is local.





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## Holiday Gift Guide

*November* 23, 2023

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Cover photo by Alexander Wilburn

## Shop Local

This Holiday Gift Guide once again invites you to explore the myriad local small businesses in the area that make perfect spots for all your seasonal shopping. At Shandell's, artisan Susan Schneider turns paper into magic moments (see cover photo). Out of her new home studio in Ashlev Falls, Mass., Schneider handcrafts marbled paper into lampshades, match trays, coasters, and pencil cups. Her marbled paper holiday stars – each a completely unique creation – can hang anywhere for any occasion and are available on her website, www.shandells.com, for \$32. You can also follow Schneider on Instagram at @shandells. Happy shopping.



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PHOTO BY CAROLYN PICCIRELLI



By Maud Doyle

10 Academy St, Salisbury, CT

(*O*) *@honeychurchhome* 

#### 📐 www.honeychurchhome.com

and each item boasts a quality

oneychurch Home has established itself as a local favorite for its highly curated, one-of-a-kind collection of luxury home goods. The proprietor, Carolyn Piccirelli, collaborates on small-run collections with craftsmen from around Europe; the ceramics, glassware and textiles on display at the shop come from England, Hungary, the Netherlands, and even Connecticut, and many are made uniquely for Honeychurch Home.

The curation is impeccable,

unique to the studios of smallscale artisans, some of whom have been in business for generations. Piccarelli has called her curation "timeless"-think blue-andwhite striped wool slippers or a luxurious lambswool throw in a simple plaid. But she also offers fun, joyous design: consider the one-of-a-kind floral chandelier constructed from painted and cut newsprint by a Tuscan artist or the ceramic bowls petaled like artichokes, made uniquely for Honeychurch Home.



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#### Hand-Knit Stuffed Animals Small \$39, Medium \$72, Large \$92

"Not only are these adorable and beautifully made but for every animal we sell, ten meals are donated to disadvantaged children." The dolls are handknit with 100% cotton yarn and entirely hypoallergenic.

#### **Topiaries \$40 - \$269**

"As a gift, topiaries make people smile," said Piccarelli. "They have so much personality." Small enough for the tabletop or big enough for the entryway, topiaries of Myrtle, Angel Vine, Lavender, and Coleus, to name a few, are planted in ready-to-go clay and ceramic pots.

#### French Slippers \$70

"How can you not love the jaunty stripe and softness of these slippers?" asked Piccarelli. "These are a family memory in the making." Made in France from pure wool, the slippers promise exceptional insulation and coziness, and the crepe sole ensures a sturdy grip.

#### Petal Bowl Small \$179, Large \$279

"Made just for us in Italy, the Petal Bowl has become a signature piece for us," said Piccarelli. The ceramic bowls, handmade in Tuscany, are available in two sizes, in translucent glazes of ivory, dusty blue, and pine-green. The small measures 12 inches in diameter and 9 inches high, while the large measures 16 x 11 inches.

#### 100% Lambswool Throw \$599

"Luxury never goes out of style," said Piccarelli. The black and white plaid throw with whipstitch detail is 100% lamb-



swool. It is woven in Italy by Alonpi, which has a long-standing tradition of using only the finest fibers to create exquisite throws and blankets. It measures 55 inches wide by 75 inches across.



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN PICCIRELL





## **Oblong Books**

By Alexander Wilburn

- **Q** 26 Main St, Millerton, NY
- (C) @oblongbooks

#### 📐 www.oblongbooks.com

blong Books is an independent bookstore with locations in Millerton and Rhinebeck, N.Y. The store in Millerton was established in 1975 and has continued to be the go-to small town book seller in Dutchess County. The shop remains a local hub for book lovers and a cultural center in the community. Oblong Books, as well as its children's section around the corner, Oblong Jr., is known for

its commitment to promoting literacy, supporting local authors, and hosting author events and book signings. This season, Oblong bookseller Therese Stanford has selected five books for young readers across all age groups. Reading offers a lifelong escape to different places and times. It instills empathy and teaches life lessons, making it a significant and enduring gift.





HATCHETTE BOOK GROUP

#### "If I Was A Horse" written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall \$18.99

"Sophie Blackall is one of my all-time favorite authors and illustrators," said Stanford. "This begins with a child imagining if she was a horse and all the things she would do, and the illustrations are stunning. It's full of such joy and is a beautiful book. This would be excellent for children three to eight years old."

#### "How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?" written by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen \$18.99

"Just the most wonderful simple humor for children and adults. Here we are wondering if Santa will slip down the chimney like taffy, or if he'll turn himself into fire, or if he ever gets stuck. I know this is going to do very well this season. This book is excellent because it discusses many children's questions, like





PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

what if you don't like somewhere with a chimney? The answer here is that he'll become a stamp on a piece of mail, and the reindeer will push the letter under the door."

#### "The Puppets of Spellhorst" written Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Julie Morstad \$17.99

"This is about a man who buys these puppets, and the puppets talk to each other. It's an original fairytale that's pure enchantment. I was under a spell and captivated by the first words of this luminous and dazzling storyteller. It's for ages seven to 10."

#### "The Lost Library" by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass \$17.99

"This is for more independent readers eight to twelve. This is perfect for a child ready to get into chapter books or even

a parent who wants to read a longer book aloud and get them hooked. I love this book because its equally good for boys or girls. The mystery is what caused a fire at the small town library years ago. Evan, a serious boy, becomes obsessed with the mystery when a small free library appears guarded by an old ginger cat. Throw in some charming ghosts and talking mice, and you'll be swept up!"

#### "The Legacies" by Jessica **Goodman \$18.99**

"This is a glitzy young adult thriller for ages 14 and older set in New York City, with elite social circles filled with backstabbing, blackmail, twisty turns, and a dead boy – old money, new secrets, and one killer party. An author I would compare her to is Holly Jackson, author of 'A Good Girl's Guide To Murder."

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Jennifer Moriarty of Juniper.



## Juniper

By Judith O'Hara Balfe

**Q** 3285 Franklin Ave, Millbrook, NY

👩 @junipermillbrook

hen Juniper opened its doors seven years ago, owner Jennifer Moriarty was a photographer looking for space to open a studio, possibly sell a few related articles. The people leasing the property had retail in mind, so to accommodate that idea, Jennifer opened a small shop with some lovely gifts, a small but unique space, but sometimes, as we know, the best laid plans become something else entirely! Moriarty was so successful in her tiny gift shop, that it spread, and

🔉 www.junipermillbrook.com

kept growing, and today it offers a tantalizing array of gifts, for all ages, all genders, and all tastes. Moriarty's background with Ralph Lauren as general manager, and an art background in college helped in her success in creating this life style boutique.

#### Napkins \$12-\$68

At Juniper one can find unique toys and other children's items; home décor items, fine clothing and so much more. For holiday giving, there are table linens, napkins which are embroi-



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RAILROAD STREET, NORTH CANAAN CT (860) 824-1024 dered; a bountiful selection of fine beeswax candles from the Catskills in a variety of colors and shapes, from \$18 to \$30.

#### Jewelry \$95-\$375

Feather jewelry by Brackish, as well as other delightful earrings, necklaces and bracelets from La Maison Atelier, Laura Foote Designs, Dean Davidson, Marcia Moran, Chang, and Cahn Luu are also available.

#### Socks and Scarves \$28-\$193

There are whimsical socks, adorned with owls, flowers, women's faces and an array of other themes. Scarfs, made by a French company come in a choice of colors.

#### Sweaters \$178

Christmas items; for starters, unique ornaments, reindeer bowls, Christmas cards and for those with a British mindset, try the Santa and Reindeer crackers!

Clothing choices are limited, but exquisite, you'd have to see to believe, from shirts, to coats, dresses, sweaters and more. Faherty, Legend sweaters and sweatshirts adorned with the Millbrook name, in blue or green. Special gifts for everyone could include the one-size-fits all, hat, gloves and scarf, prices from \$36 to \$48 in a wide choice of colors. Selection of leather boots on hand.

#### Relaxing Gifts \$8-\$78

A neck wrap, Sea Clay Body Mask, Migraine Mask and a delightful tissue holder are among specialty items, ranging in price. Also, personal and unique, embroidery covered notebooks.

#### Throws \$135

Herringbone throws, soft, machine washable, gorgeous colors, handmade in Italy. Table décor, hors de oeuvres plates, cheese picks, serving spoons, Juniper has it with a variety of prices and styles. There are candle holders, lighting fixtures and glasses too.

#### Toys Starting at \$14

For the young person on your gift list, stuffed mice, a wooden doll house, a tricycle, books, games, all different, all special, even a \$400 wooden house. Juniper has babies and children's clothing, as well.





PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE





PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN



## 109 Cheese Market

By Leila Hawken

7 Old Barn Road, Kent, CT

(C) @109cheesemarket

🔀 www.109cheeseandwine.com

09 Cheese Market opened in Kent in 2018 and remains in constant search of the finest small artisan-produced gourmet foods to feed customer's bodies and souls, and helping them find just the right gift when just the right gift is needed. This curated collection is just a short list of the products offered in the Kent and Ridgefield stores, where the finest in cheese, charcuterie and gourmet products are carried. 109 only sell what the owners would buy themselves. Whether one is shopping for a hostess gift, or in multiples for clients or employees, come and explore the impressive range of possibilities.

#### Gourmet Gift Basket \$135

Choose from many options to customize for your favorite foodie. Prices range from \$50-\$500. This basket \$135 is filled with Pappardelle pasta, Tartuflanghe Truffle potato chips, Three Little Fig jam, Beth's Farm Kitchen's Spicy Pepper jam, Dried Porcini Mushrooms, Hoboken Farms Marinara, Sweet deliverance granola, Potters Table seeded flatbreads. Use your imagination to find just the right combination.

> 109 only sell what the owners would buy themselves.

Europa Arethusa Cow, Litchfield CT Best Cheese in America 2023 1 lb \$38 Brillat Savarin Delin cow Triple Creme Burgundy France 1 wheel \$40-\$50

Give a generous chunk or whole wheel freshly cut and wrapped in blue cheese paper. The options are endless and sure to delight the recipient.

#### WKNDDRVR Adult Play Toys *Vici Playforever race car Rufus \$70* Vici Playforever Luft Porsche \$50

Adult play toys from the Kent companion store Wknddrvr (Vintage Automobilia and Art), located at 5 Old Barn Road (right next door to 109 Cheese, a companion shop run by Todd Brown, husband of Monica Brown, proprietor of the cheese shop) This is all about the transportation enthusiast. A toy car goes well with cheese.

#### Hot Chocolate Basket \$36

Artisan drinking chocolate and marshmallows from bean to bar maker Markham and Fritz. This is an ideal gift to thrill the chocolate lover on your list, nearly everyone.

### Chef's delight Olive Oil and Aged balsamic \$70

The finest Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Aged balsamic from Italy A sure-to-please choice for

the hostess who is serious about green salads and wants to top them off with the perfect touch.



An array of gifts from 109 Cheese Market.



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

FROM OUR FAMILIES TO YOURS... WISHING YOU A JOYOUS holiday season AND A WONDERFUL new year **RAYNARD & PEIRCE** REALTY, LLC -93 Church Street, Unit 1 | PO Box 1152 | Canaan, CT 06018 Wendy Eichman, Broker | 860-453-4148 | info@raynardpeircere.com WWW.RAYNARDPEIRCERE.COM

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## Hammertown Barn

By Christine Bates

💡 3201 Route 199, Pine Plains, NY

👩 @hammertownbarn

www.shop.hammertown.com

ammertown, the converted horse barn just outside the hamlet of Pine Plains, is filled with holiday spirit and gifts for everyone books, antiques, clothing, kitchen wares, jewelry, and art. Joan Osofsky, its founder, creative visionary, and lifestyle author, selected some of her favorite gift ideas for our readers. Baby items from books, to stuffed animals, games and clothing now have more space at Hammertown's expanded young children's section. Hammertown always has a wide selection of very collectible Terrafirma ceramics handmade in a New York City studio by a woman-owned company. Here the distinctive pattern is made by painting glaze through textiles and lace to create a casual but sophisticated look.

#### "New Old House" by Marc Kristal \$60

Hammertown has a carefully curated selection of lifestyle books compatible with a modern country home scattered around the store. There's always a comfortable chair to sit down and read.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

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#### Three Piece Cheese Knife Set \$40

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#### **Cutting Boards From \$115**

Durable and beautiful bird's eye maple cutting boards from Wisconsin artisan Edward Wohl have been a long-time favorite at Hammertown.

#### **Decorative Orbs \$46**

Beeswax orbs with pressed flowers, pine twigs, and moss made in Athens, Georgia, come with glowing tea lights.

#### Memory Pot \$475

Hammertown Barn always has vintage items selected personally by Joan that make unique gifts. This vintage, incredibly creative memory pot is one of Joan's favorites.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE BATES



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An array of gifts from The Wish House.

PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN





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## The Wish House

By Riley Klein

413 Sharon Goshen Tnpk, West Cornwall, CT

#### www.wishhouse.com

Located just up the road from the covered bridge in West Cornwall, Conn., The Wish House's offerings range from gifts to clothing to unique home accents. Owner Bianka Griggs said the Wish House is "always aiming to have a little something for everyone, and a broad price variety to keep all included." Downstairs from The Wish House, The Souterrain Gallery features inspired works by local artists.

#### Toys From Luke's Toy Factory \$23/ single truck, \$100/5 truck set

Eco-friendly truck toys designed in Danbury and manufactured in Southington, Conn. 3D puzzles made for little hands are also available, ages 3+.

#### Children's Books \$18-20

A selection of children's stories by local authors such as Caroline Nastro, Valorie Fisher, Julia Child's nephew Alex Prudhomme and others offer sensible life lessons to the little ones. The Wish House's offerings range from gifts to clothing to unique home accents.

#### Cody Foster Glass Ornaments \$6.50-18

A smattering of Cody Foster glass ornaments of all varieties to celebrate the holiday season.

#### Wallace Sewell Merino Lambswool Scarfs \$78.50

Scarfs from Wallace Sewell made in England, the same design team that created the upholstery for the London Underground Metro.

#### Lime Tree Design Liberty of London Heart Shaped Lavender Sachets \$12.50

Sweet sachets from Lime Tree Design are a stylish way to keep the moths away.





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Julianna Kreta of Little Red Bird Studio.

#### PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

## Little Red Bird Studio

By Deborah Maier

**Q** 24 Main St Suite B1, Millerton, NY

🕜 @lredbirdstudio

www.littleredbirdstudio.weebly.com

cozy second-floor studio at 24 Main Street in Millerton, bedecked with thankyou drawings from young artists, is where artist Julianna Kreta creates, sells and nurtures whimsical, finely crafted objects, and runs workshops for all ages and skill levels. She also has an extensive online store with lovely items too numerous to mention. Shop online at www.etsy.com/ shop/LittleRedBirdStudio.

#### Matryoshka Dolls \$35-\$42

A big favorite is sets of 3 or 5 nesting wooden Matryoshka dolls in animal motifs as well as the more traditional headscarved girls in diminishing sizes. A set of five made to order is \$55.00.

#### Suncatchers \$20

Suncatchers in delicate beadwork are available featuring birthstones, some in simple



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columns of small and larger colored crystals according to the month and others with tiny angels. Another type of suncatcher features favorite motifs—a pig, a football, an octopus, dozens to choose from— all with a final large German crystal teardrop that breaks sunlight into myriad tiny rainbows. Special orders are available for \$30.00, and a madeto-order piece with a Svarovski crystal heart is \$42.00 Shipping takes 3-5 days, except for custom orders, for which two weeks is needed.

#### Stained Glass \$20-\$28

Faux stained glass—handpainted window clings—are beautifully textured and quite elegant single images or corners, ranging from \$20.00 to \$28.00. Special orders are welcomed.

#### Workshops \$30

As to workshops—in her studio, private homes, or libraries—Kreta offers a vast array for people of all ages. Her favorite, she says, is paint-and-sip style events, which can be tailored to suit the participants.

Another favorite class in the spring guides participants in creating Ukrainian Psyanky Eggs in an elaborate process using all the traditional materials, such as wax and open flames. Gift certificates are available. For full information, see the studio's website.





PHOTOS BY DEBORAH MAIER





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## **Orangerie Garden & Home**

By Judith O'Hara Balfe

#### **Q** 3424 Franklin Avenue, Millbrook, NY

#### (O) @orangeriegarden

#### 📐 www.orangeriegarden.com

Restled next to Creel and Gow, Orangerie is a lightfilled structure, half-indoors, half out-doors, that is very, very green. Trees, plants. Bushes, topiaries, flowers, it is a garden center, but it also has a large selection of home décor goods ranging from \$15 to over \$500. The pieces are carefully chosen, and mostly unique, not pieces you'll find just anywhere.

Owner Anthony Bellomo selected several items for the upcoming holidays, to decorate one's home or to give as gifts. He opened Orangerie in April of 2021 and has become an expert in knowing what his customers want. Some of those he chose that are his particular favorites are listed below.

#### **Topiaries \$35-\$125**

For those who like giving live plants, topiaries are good choices. Aside from being decorative, some, such as a Rosemary topiary, can also be used to spice up food creations. Bellomo likes the idea of giving live plants; they thrive throughout the winter.



#### Tulipieres \$525

Unique, beautiful, Bellomo also chose these flower holders, called Tulipieres as favorites. They are not inexpensive, but they are unique! They can be separated, and each reservoir holds its own water. Always fresh in green and white, the look may seem Asian, but a closer gander shows the motif to be Dutch.

#### Christopher Spitzmiller Cups \$95

"These bowls are hand crafted by Christopher Spitzmiller," said Bellomo of the cups and bowl made by Bellomo's husband, who is local to Millbrook.

#### Glasses \$16, Pitcher \$36

Green again, because it goes so well with Christmas and blends in with any garden space, these uniquely shaped glasses are a find, to keep or to give as a gift. They are made in Morocco. Brushes, Small \$10, Medium

\$15, Large \$20

"These brushes are great to give as gifts to people who love to garden," says Bellomo. "Gardeners always have dirt under their fingernails. These are great for getting all the dirt out."

#### Hurricane \$300

Made in India, the hurricane lamps would make an elaborate gift but, says Bellomo, "It gets dark early in December. These lamps would be perfect for giving off just enough light." They'd be lovely on a holiday



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

table as well, maybe surrounded with greens and berries.

#### **Beeswax Candle Pair \$38**

"Candles are always a good gift to give a hostess," said Bellomo. He likes these candles, in different colors and different styles, some designed to look like twigs.

#### Bowls, Small \$10, Medium \$15, Large \$20

The bowls featured her are manufactured, not hand made, but are very fetching for holding various foods, and come in different sizes.

Bellomo expects to have Christmas merchandise in before too long; they'll have swags, wreaths, and this year Christmas trees as well. You can also expect some beautiful and unique Christmas ornaments and decorations, as well as finding Christmas and holiday gifts you'll be proud to give.





Anthony Bellomo of Orangerie Garden & Home.









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## **Salisbury General Store & Gifts**

By Alexander Wilburn

20 Main St, Salisbury, CT

🕜 @salisburygeneralstore 📐 www.spgrx.com

alisbury General Store's Manager Larissa Vreeland has curated a cozy collection of gifts to fill up all your stockings hung on the fireplace. Holiday browsing at the shop on Main Street in Salisbury is an annual tradition for residents. As you explore the store, you'll likely run into friends and neighbors, creating a sense of camaraderie that defines the festive season. Conversations drift from holiday plans to local news and warm wishes for the upcoming festivities. It's a time for connection and rekindling community bonds.

#### **Thymes Fraser Fir** Aromatic Candle \$37

A Siberian fir needle and sandalwood-scented candle at Christmas fills the air with nostalgia. Its fragrant embrace conjures memories of evergreen forests and twinkling lights, adding a touch of nature to celebrations all winter long.

#### Little Voices Bracelets \$30

Make the Eras Tour last well into the holiday season with a stackable gift of word art bracelets. With dozens of grounding words and phrases to choose from, these whimsical bracelets would look very charming tied in a bow and tucked in a stocking for an excited Swiftie.

#### **Glasshouse Fragrances Night** Before Christmas Set \$82.50

Named after the 19th-century poem by American author Clement Clark Moore, this fragrance, with top notes of blackcurrant and redcurrant, brings a burst of fruity cheer. The middle notes of plum, lemon, lavender, and rose add a delightful bouquet. Musk, oak moss, and spice in the base notes create a cozy, festive ambiance filling your home.

#### Spartina 449 Lagoon Necklace With Crystals \$180

Giving jewelry at the holidays is a heartfelt expression of love and thoughtfulness. The sparkle of gems and the elegance of design amplify the joy of gifting, making it a memorable and meaningful gesture.

#### Lynn & Liana Designs Handmade **Cutting Board \$103**

A gift for the hostess with the most-est: this cheeseboard, crafted from hardwood and an eco-friendly epoxy, will easily become a centerpiece for gatherings, serving memorable moments with cheese, fruit and nuts – it might even inspire a friend to get adventurous with a butter board laid at for friends with bread in hand.



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Designer John Robshaw.

PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN



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## John Robshaw Shop

By Patrick L. Sullivan

**5** US-7, Falls Village, CT

#### 👩 @johnrobshaw

f you're looking for something exotic in a Christmas present then go no farther than 5 Route 7 in Falls Village where John Robshaw offers unusual pillows and bedding and furniture and odds and ends, much of it from India.

#### Hand Painted Tapestry \$1,400

On a recent visit the proprietor, asked to showcase a variety of goods with a wide range of prices, started with an expensive item, a hand painted tapestry of a camel, made in Jaipur, India in the 1950s. Robshaw said Jaipur is known for producing these colorful interior murals.

#### Pillows Starting at \$225

In the next room was an array of patch pillows from India and embroidered pillows from Uzbekistan.

#### **Copper Cups \$60**

Nearby on a shelf in a cupboard were Lassi cups, made of 📐 www.johnrobshaw.com

burnished copper and brass and with intricate etched designs. Robshaw said people often use them as vases.

#### South Indian Figures \$20

Next to them were little painted clay figurines representing local deities from South India. Robshaw said making the figurines is a cottage industry in an area with limited jobs. It's a pretty good bet that your favorite aunt does not have one of these on the knickknack shelf.

#### Handmade wooden rings from Jaipur \$100

"This is a nice story," said Robshaw, a natural raconteur. "They're made by Muslim women who do not have a lot of job opportunities."

#### Box of cards \$35

Next to the rings were boxes of hand screened greeting cards made from recycled cotton and adorned with Indian patterns.







PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN



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