



The Great Singapore Sale (GSS) is here. Which credit card offers the best gifts and rebates for this shopping season?

These are the promotions as of 3 Jun 2011.

01 HSBC

Minimum Spending and Cash Rebate{loadposition advert1}

- S\$1,000 (10% rebate capped at \$50)
- \$2,500 (15% rebate capped at \$150)
- \$4,000 (20% rebate capped at \$250)
- Spend \$100 daily (\$5 rebate capped at \$5)

The Fine Print

- 10% to 20% rebates are limited to first 2,000 redemptions via SMS from 26 May to 30 Jun 2011

- Minimum spending can be anywhere (e.g. petrol), but rebate only applies to the portion that is overseas spending or local retail and dining spending only
- 5% daily rebate is limited to first 1,000 redemptions per week

Comments

- Too good to be true and indeed so. If for example \$4,000 is spent on retail (and nowhere else), rebate is just 6.25%.
- 5% daily rebate is still attractive (if you are quick)

02ANZ

Minimum Spending and Gift

- \$15,000 - Sony Bravia 40" LCD TV
- \$6,000 - Nautica watch
- \$2,000 - "Crystal pen"

The Fine Print

- Limited to first 100, 200 & 300 redemptions respectively from 15 May to 31 Jul 2011

Comments

- Decent gifts but high minimum spending (and too few TVs)

03 Standard Chartered

Minimum Spending and Gift

- \$3,500 - Macbook Air 11-inch 64GB worth \$1,348 (200 redemptions)
- \$7,000 - Mac 27-inch 2.7GHz worth \$2,348 (200 redemptions)

The Fine Print

- Gifts split equally into 2 spend periods: 1-30 Jun and 1-31 Jul
- Gifts allocated by lucky draw, SMS to qualify
- Card users can also choose a guaranteed gift of a Sony MP3 player "worth \$129" by foregoing the lucky draw

Comments

- Attractive gifts, but low likelihood of a win. MP3 player is hardly worth the effort to charge to a SCB credit card

04 Also-Ran: UOB

Type of spending (Cash rebate)

- Shopping and dining - \$1 spend gets 100% equivalent in reward points
- Online shopping - \$1 spend gets 150% equivalent in reward points

The Fine Print

- 5 winners per day from 19 May to 30 Jun
- Rebate is capped at \$500 and \$750 for shopping/dining and online transactions respectively

Comments

- Pretty much a lucky draw with a very low probability of winning back what you spend

05**Also-Ran: Maybank**{loadposition advert1}

Minimum Spending and Gift

- \$600 - \$20 tr'eats vouchers (1st 500 redemptions)
- \$2,000 - Marriott Cafe Local High-Tea Buffet worth \$76 (1st 300 redemptions)
- \$4,000 - Tommy Hilfiger Watch worth \$289 (1st 150 redemptions)

Comments

- Low spending thresholds, so low that the gift were fully redeemed just days into the GSS

06Special Mention: Citibank

Citibank does not have a specific GSS promotion, but in a promotion marketed via a mailer (and only applicable for those who receive the mailer), Citibank credit cards offer a \$100 rebate for a minimum of \$1,000 spent in Jun 2011 (the rebate is \$45 for \$500 minimum spend). No SMS is required to qualify.

Conclusion

There is little to choose between this year's GSS credit card promotions. Might be worth it to make a shopping trip to Bangkok or Hong Kong instead.

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