

After such an impressive year for gaming last year, it's to be expected that 2012 may lack some in comparison. Based off of early speculation and rumors, 2012 will be dominated by newer consoles from Nintendo, Sony and Microsoft rather than any particular game. However, there is still a good amount of exciting games across all consoles that any avid gamer should know about. And if none of them happen to tickle your fancy, then take solace in the fact that you have *Skryim*. You know you're still playing it.

Bioshock: Infinite: This follow-up to 2010's *Bioshock 2* isn't a direct sequel or prequel, but instead involves a brand new story in a different setting: A city in the clouds called Columbia. Expect more thrills and plenty of critical acclaim when it's released sometime next year.

GTA V: Thanks to its much-discussed new trailer, the *Grand Theft Auto* series is back on the gaming world's radar. Though an official release date has yet to be announced, *GTAV* should once again shake up the industry with innovative open world gameplay (this time back in San Andreas) and complex, compelling storytelling.

Halo 4: Master Chief is back! After a two game hiatus (*Halo: ODST* and *Halo Reach* featured different characters and settings), Chief is making his return to the 360. This is the first in the series to be made without Bungie and is planned as the start of a new trilogy. Fans will be eagerly waiting to see if 343 Industries can develop a game that lives up to its predecessors' legacy this holiday season.

Mass Effect 3: Set to wrap up the epic, award-winning sci-fi series is *Mass Effect 3*. Developer BioWare has announced four player co-op and Kinect support in addition to its already near flawless open world exploration and action RPG elements. Prepare to board the Normandy one last time this March.

Twisted Metal: The classic, old-school car combat series returns to the PS3 this February with *Twisted Metal*. Old favorites such as Sweet Tooth and The Preacher are set to appear in the infamous Twisted Metal Tournament. Multiplayer enthusiasts rejoice.

South Park: The Game: The controversial cartoon is making its way to gaming consoles in 2012. This is the first game based off the popular series to have direct creative input from creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker, so you can look forward to some big laughs worthy of the show in this turn-based, fantasy RPG.

Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance: This title has been stuck in development hell for years now, which is normally a death sentence to any title. It should be interesting to see if new developer Platinum Games can handle the swordfighting, slice-and-dice gameplay. However, it is now considered by Konami as a

Borderlands 2: The sequel to the unexpectedly popular cel-shaded, RPG/first-person shooter *Borderlands* is set to come out this summer. It'll feature new characters and more multiplayer fun.

Street Fighter X Tekken: When worlds collide, great things can happen. Expect the best from this upcoming crossover fighter featuring characters from the world of Tekken invading the Street Fighter universe.

The Last of Us: Little is known about Naughty Dogs' latest creation, except that it is a third person survival horror game and it is being made by Naughty Dog. The latter should be enough reason to get you excited.