

Food news

Tempting goodies new to the shelves, for people who love their food



COOL - AND HOT - FLASK

The Vinnebago is a clever vacuum-sealed flask that can keep hot drinks hot for up to 12 hours and cold drinks chilled for up to 25 hours. No freezing is needed, the liquid will simply stay chilled inside. Its 750ml capacity means a whole bottle of wine can be stored inside so it's also great for taking wine to an event where no glass bottles are allowed.

■ The Vinnebago costs £30 from Selfridges, tel: 0800 123 400, website: (www.selfridges.com).



Vegan adventures

January 1 sees the beginning of Veganuary, in association with Viva! Veganuary offers a great resource of recipes, health and nutrition tips.

■ For more information, see the website (www.veganuary.com).

Simple stripping

If you find kale and other vegetables and herbs with stalks annoying to prepare, try the LooseLeaf Greens Stripper from Chef'n. It makes it simple to strip the leaves away from the stem. It offers eight sizes of hole so it can be used for garden herbs like thyme, rosemary and parsley or for large leafy greens such as kale, Swiss chard, or spring greens.

■ Available for £8 from Bentalls and online at Tesco Direct or: (www.onlinekitchenware.co.uk), tel: 01653 690222.



Calzone pizza

Dr Oetker Ristorante has added a Calzone to its pizza range. Ristorante Calzone Speciale is a folded pizza filled with mushrooms, salami, ham, tomato sauce and cheese, topped with a sprinkling of cheese and herbs. Pop in the oven for 25 minutes and serve.

■ Dr Oetker Ristorante Calzone Speciale is available from the freezer aisles of Asda stores (RRP £2.99).



Artichoke appreciation

We're used to eating artichokes in antipasto form, but in parts of Vietnam the flower is consumed in a very different way. Artichoke tea is known as Trà atiso and is a speciality of the Lam-Dong highland region. Now, herbal tea specialist Natur Boutique has introduced artichoke tea here.

It has a mild and earthy flavour, and is an ideal alternative to green tea. It is caffeine-free, and studies into the benefits of artichokes are also making it a firm favourite with the health-conscious.

■ For more information see: (www.naturboutique.co.uk). Available in Holland & Barrett (£2.99 for a box of 20 tea bags).



Pick-me-up pasta

Atlantic Kitchen's 'Sea Spaghetti' is unlike ordinary pasta - it's made from all-natural seaweed harvested from the Atlantic. It offers important vitamins and minerals and is a great source of protein. It also has just 178 calories per 100g of pasta, less than half that of normal pasta.

Atlantic Kitchen's range of seaweed products also includes dried Dulse Seaweed, whose smoky flavour and rich purple colour make it a great addition to salads, and Wakame Seaweed, the 'spinach of the sea'.

■ All three products are available through the new one-stop shop for natural and organic products: (www.natreco.com). Prices start from £5.95.



NEW GALAXY DRINK FLAVOURS

There are two additions to Galaxy's hot chocolate range: Ultimate Marshmallow Hot Chocolate with marshmallows that expand and form a fluffy top and Ultimate White Hot Chocolate with real white chocolate pieces.

■ The Ultimate Hot Chocolate Drinks are available from Asda (RSP £2.89 for a 300g jar).

Making sure it's Manuka

Rowse Honey has launched a campaign calling for stricter testing and labelling guidelines of all Manuka Honey products sold in the UK. Research shows that an estimated 45 per cent of all Manuka Honey jars sold on UK high streets are not genuine.

Only Manuka Honey farmed in New Zealand from bees feeding on the nectar of the Manuka tree and which contains a substantial amount of Methylglyoxal (MGO) can be considered to be authentic - but current guidelines don't say what the minimal levels of MGO should be. Rowse works with trusted bee farmers in New Zealand to ensure all Rowse Manuka Honey is 100 per cent authentic and it's tested twice - in New Zealand and again on arrival in the UK.

■ Rowse Manuka Honey sells from £9.59 to £19.99 for its NPA 15+. Website: (www.RowseHoney.co.uk), tel: 0800 954 8089.



JANUARY 2016 CHOICE



Charming chopping board

The Bamboo Gripper chopping board from Architec is made from a fast-growing, naturally renewable material with the same level of durability as hardwoods. It looks attractive and a patented, non-slip gripper base keeps it steady, making it really safe to use.

■ Available in red or green, priced at £19.99 from PHA KitchEssentials Ltd, tel: 0151 651 2265, website: (www.phakitchenessentials.co.uk).

Coconut goodies

Coconut Merchant has launched a diverse range of 100 per cent natural coconut products, including a delicious Coconut Jam (£5.99 for a 330g jar) that is lovely spread on toast or added to porridge, or try Coconut Merchant Coconut Snack Chips either on your cereal or as a snack on their own.

The range also includes Organic Coconut Butter (300ml, RRP £5.99), Coconut Syrup (250ml, RRP £4.95), Organic Coconut Flour (500g, RRP £6.99), Desiccated Coconut (250g/500g, RRP £3.39), Organic Coconut Sugar (250g/1kg, (RRP £3.99/6.99), Coconut Milk (200ml/400ml, RRP £1.10/1.35) and Aqua Coco Coconut Water (250ml/1L, RRP £1.49/2.75).

■ Available online from: (www.coconut-merchant.com), Amazon and Grape Tree stores, and selected products from Selfridges, Planet Organic, Asda, Tesco, Revital and The Health Rack and other independent stores.

Celebrate with Shloer

Designated drivers can toast the New Year in with new-look Shloer Celebration. With its popping cork, you won't feel left out when the clock strikes 12.

■ £2.25 from supermarkets.

