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25

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food & drink

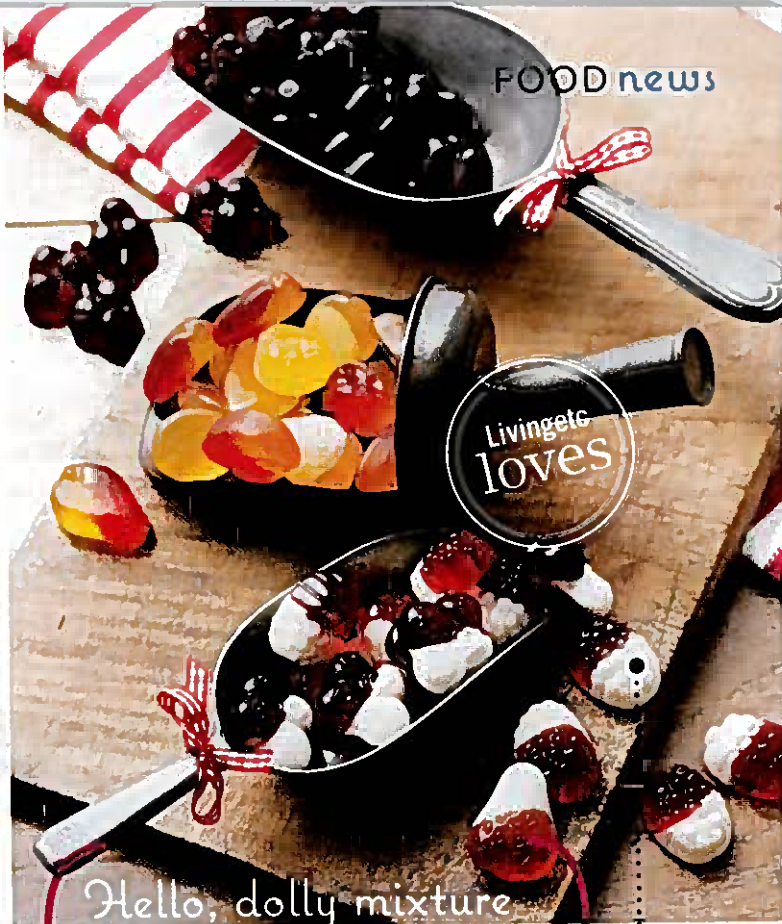
Genius gadgetry, classier cocktails, a taste of the exotic, plus, the return of old-school sweetsies

EDITED BY NEIL McLENNAN



TOP OF THE POTS

Sebastian Conran has just designed a kitchen range for John Lewis that aims to provide clever solutions to everyday cooking niggles. So the pans have splash guards to prevent dripping when you pour, and the lids double as trivets. Smart stuff. Sebastian Conran pan set, £150 (johnlewis.com)



Hello, dolly mixture

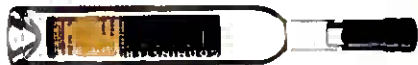
HERE'S THE LATEST SWEETIE SCOOP: M&S HAS LAUNCHED A NEW PICK 'N' MIX SWEET SHOP WITH MORE THAN 100 NEW LINES. OLD FAVOURITES SUCH AS SHERBET FOUNTAINS ARE JOINED BY NEWBIES INCLUDING PERCY PIG'S PHIZZY TAILS AND, AS THEY HAVE NO ARTIFICIAL FLAVOURS OR COLOURS, THEY'RE GOOD FOR YOU, ALMOST. FROM 39p PER BAG (MARKSANDSPENCER.COM)

HOM HELP

The humble Chinese takeaway is revamped this month, courtesy of legendary chef Ken Hom's new range for Tesco. Expect more fresh lemon zest, less sugar and a new Chee Hou sauce to add sizzle to meal times. Available from October. From 89p (tesco.com)



3 of the best... statement vodkas



JUST RADISHING

Use to add savoury sensation to a Bloody Mary (it even comes with the right spices). Bloody Good Mary gift set, with Organic Horseradish vodka, £28.24 (godminster.com)



SHAKE THE BARLEY

Smooth and elegant – great for classy martinis or straight up. Sipsmith Barley vodka, £22.99 (thepurveyor.com)



SPICE IS RIGHT

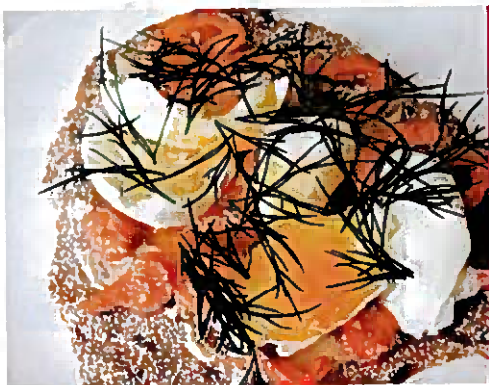
Its delicate flavour means it's ideal on the rocks. Hangar One Spiced Pear vodka, £45 (harveynichols.com)



£8

Keep it clean

Some gadgets are so good, you wonder why it took so long to think of them. Joseph's new Elevate utensils have weighted handles, so sauce-covered stirrers don't come into contact with worktops – the latest clean cuisine. From £8 (houseoffraser.co.uk)



CRISP, ANYONE?

If Ikea's meatballs are the limit of your experience of Swedish food, check out Peter's Yard – Edinburgh's only Swedish artisan bakery. It now delivers its treats nationwide, so you can get fruit loaves, funky biscuits and, our favourite, supersized crispbreads with rye, honey and sourdough, dropped direct to your door. £9.99 for a tin of nine crispbreads (petersyard.com)



The calm feel and restrained palette continue in the kitchen with cookware in black, soft tomato, duck-egg blue and sage green shades. Baking takes a nostalgic turn at House of Fraser this autumn, with earthenware mixing bowls and classic fluted pie dishes – their professional quality and timeless good looks are as much at home in a sleek modern setting as they are in a traditional farmhouse kitchen. For serious cooks it's always worth investing in top materials for the best results and cast-iron pans will last a lifetime – what's more, they can go straight from oven to table.

With entertaining at home very much the mode, it's time to bring back traditional afternoon tea. Show off your home-baked wares on a cake stand with a classic twist by the addition of big polka dots in mellow blue, yellow and lavender – and add chunky cream cups and saucers for a perfect relaxed afternoon tea party your guests will love.

1 Tea party Kitchen Craft traditional stoneware **mixing bowl**, £10; Faringdon Wave **spoon**, £3.50; Linea Dotty cow milk **pourer**, £8; Joseph Joseph adjustable **rolling pin**, £15; Seletti **egg storage**, £8; Typhoon Grip It **wooden spoon**, £2.50; Linea Home Sweet Home **ramekin**, £2.50; Linea Farmhouse fluted **pie dish**, £15; Home Sweet Home 20.5cm **pie dish**, £8; Dotty **sugar canister**, £6.50; Linea Birds **tea towel**, £5.

2 Get grilling Linea by Meyer hard anodised 24cm square **grill pan**, £40; Joseph Joseph Elevate slotted **turner** and **fish slice**, £8 each; Joseph Joseph Slice & Store **chopping board**, £12; Linea Fruit **tea towel**, £8 for two.

3 Baking day Linea red cast-iron 25.5cm **round pan**, £70; black 27cm **oval pan**, £60 (colours may vary); Linea white gloss five-piece **knife block**, £60; Joseph Joseph white Slice & Store **chopping board**, £12.

All items available at House of Fraser and houseoffraser.co.uk.