



Selection box

Montezuma's organic chocolate is now available in a collection of 12 different bars (enough to keep us going for at least a weekend). We especially like the Jungle Fever fruit 'n' nut and Space Hopper choc and orange varieties. Twelve bars, £13.95 (0845 450 6306; montezumas.co.uk).



ECO WARE

This complete picnic set can be used again and again if washed quickly after use and is biodegradable so will break down completely when the summer is over. £14.95 (0844 922 5563; firebox.com).



Waste watchers

If your store cupboard is groaning under the weight of out-of-date spice jars, it's time to downsize. Spice-N-Tice blends contain the right amount of herbs and spices to create one authentic dish so you can knock up chicken methi, lamb rogan josh, Bombay potatoes, or Cajun chicken or Peri Peri chicken from the new summer range, £1.99. (spicentice.com)

HOW TO ENTERTAIN

A SIDEWAYS LOOK AT FOODIE HABITS...

- Avoid calling it a dinner party at all costs. Studied casualness is what you're aiming for. 'We're doing seven-hour shoulder of lamb – why don't you come round?'
- Pre-global warming, serving your guests tap water would have said, 'I don't care.' Now, it says you do – a lot. Just have it juggled, chilled and ready to pour by the time the door bell rings. Finessing with lemon and/or lime slices entirely optional.
- Suddenly, napkins are feeling a little too Margot and Jerry. Steal an idea from London's Bumpkin restaurant, by way of NYC's perennially hip Pastis and Balthazar, and switch them for plain white tea towels, the type you use for glassware. Far more square inch-age for mouth-dabbing, finger-wiping and rapid-response mop-ups when somebody knocks over the cab sauv.
- Skip the one hard, one goat's, one blue, one washed-rind thing and just serve a Celtic Promise, Wales's answer to epaisse. One whole seasonal cheese is now the way to go – the more stinky, the better. Bonus points available for serving it before the pudding.
- What not to say to your guests: 'After Eights, anyone?'



OBJECT OF DESIRE

This Tavola grater is beautiful as well as functional. The acacia wood stand is hollow so it collects as you grate and is good-looking enough to act as a serving bowl for parmesan. £24.95 (0845 602 3578; handpickedcollection.com)

RHUBARB, RHUBARB

olive'S HAVING A GOOD TIME DESPITE THE CREDIT CRUNCH

- Dining discounts Register at barcamino.com for a loyalty card from hip Spanish restaurant Camino for offers and sherry and food matching.
- Three cheers Yes! Earn points to buy more wine from small producers at slurp.co.uk (love the free delivery when spending over £70, too)
- Get us outta here Last-minute travel deals at travelzoo.co.uk. Bring on the upgrades!

SUPERMARKET SWEEP

Banana pancake stacks

Pop into M&S for this Fairtrade treat. Slice 2 M&S Fairtrade bananas (£1.49 for seven). Layer between a few warmed M&S Scotch Pancakes (95p), drizzle over 2 tbsp of M&S Fairtrade Rich Chocolate Truffle Sauce (£3.69) and serve with a scoop of M&S Organic Madagascar Vanilla Ice Cream (£3.49). Serves 2 🍌

