

WISH LIST



“These pages are about us doing the hard work so you don't have to... Joy! We're sent anything from 20 to 100 new products a month, and we really do try them all: tasting, smelling the aromas, testing gadgets. Only if they're useful, good-looking and value for money do they get the delicious. seal of approval.” **KAREN BARNES, EDITOR**



HOT POT

I'm loving this enameled **hob-top Turkish coffee pot** – a bargain at only £9.25 from onlinekitchenware.co.uk. I use it to warm milk for coffee, rather than to make coffee itself, as it's handsome enough to bring to the table.



QUALITY *in a box*

Curated boxes of fine food – an excuse to charge inflated prices or a chance to sample the best from abroad? Here are our recommendations



TOP CHOICE **Originario** Rare products, made by some of Italy's best artisan producers. The website is a visual feast and a delight to read, with producer stories and tasting notes. Yes, the boxes aren't cheap, but for quality like this you shouldn't expect them to be. A box might contain two exquisite cheeses, a jar of oranges preserved in sweet wine, handmade pasta, small batch honey, heritage flour and bottles of local wine. There's even a specially themed box for Valentine's Day – a wonderful gift. *Boxes from £100 (10% off your first order); originario.io*

Lagourmetbox.com We tried La Bellota box, a celebration of Spanish cured meat, with acorn-fed ham and cured sausage, together with toasted marcona almonds, olives, wine and more. The quality of these authentic Spanish products is superb. *Box prices start at around £36 (about £80 for La Bellota box).*

Feel Italy Again, it's all about provenance. Try the cheese box, for around £45 – it comes with local honey. Or the Valtellina box with bread, fruit butters, jams and more, for around £33. feel-italy.com

VALENTINE'S GIFTS

THE MAIL-ORDER TREAT

Find **Sweet Reason brownies** in our online shop at deliciousmagazine.co.uk. You can buy boxes of different flavours, such as salted caramel, honeycomb, ginger and coconut (there are gluten-free boxes, too). The handmade brownies come beautifully packaged and individually wrapped. £29.50 for 18 assorted squares **d.s**



THE DRINK

Kama Sutra tea? I kid you not. Gimmick aside, this sultry mix of cinnamon, orange and rose petals, with a touch of pepper, is rather good. The tea comes with a recipe for a cocktail, too – if you want to try it cold and fizzing. The jury's out on whether tea is a good Valentine's gift, though... £12 for 70g, from East India Company stores or at eicfinefoods.com

MORE THAN JUST A HEART

I remain less than enamoured with heart-shaped gadgets – unless they're useful. This good-looking object is a walnut cracker. Insert the point at the base of the shell where the two halves meet, then twist and – voilà! – the halves split apart. We've tried it and it works brilliantly. £13.50, alessi.com/en

