

3 OF THE BEST...

Speciality tea companies



Newby Teas, 020 7251 8939, newbyteas.co.uk.

Choose from a wide selection including Imperial Jasmine, which won three Great Taste Awards in 2010. It costs £18.50 for a 100g caddie.



Charbrew, 01253 362230, charbrew.com.

Exotic ingredients go in to these teas and tisanes.

The Original blend includes almonds, papaya, pineapple and popcorn. From £3.49 for 15 bags.



Numi Organic Tea, numitea.com.

Packed with antioxidants, Puerh is one of the purest teas available. The range includes Chocolate, Mint and an Aged Tea Brick (above). £8.99 for 2.2oz.

WORDS CLAUDIA BAILLIE

Sweet thing

Forget cupcakes, macaroons are the latest teatime treat. Now you can whip up these delicate confections at home with a simple mix that can be customised with your own colours and flavours. SK Instant Macaroon Mix from Squires Kitchen, £7.50 for 250g, makes 18 standard-size macaroons. Contact 0845 617 1810, squires-shop.com.



CHOP CHOP

We love these mini chopping boards. Carved from sustainable green oak, they will "silver" over time if left natural, or lightly oil them to help retain their colour. Besides chopping, use them to serve canapés. They cost £32 each from Also Home. Contact 0844 870 0165, alsohome.com.



Knowing your cuts of beef helps you get the best from them. For slow cooking choose skirt, shin and braising steak (from the chuck or blade) and brisket for pot roasts.

CAROLINE PEERS, WEST HELE ORGANIC FARM, DEVON, WESTHELEFARM.CO.UK

FLOUR POWER

If you're thinking about baking one of the bread recipes on page 146, then try the specialist flours from Sainsbury's Taste



The Difference home baking range to help your dough rise to the occasion. The flour costs 99p for 1kg bag. Contact 0800 636262, sainsburys.co.uk.



BEST POSSIBLE TASTE

Only the finest ingredients are used in recipes from Lincolnshire-based Redhill Farm, so it's no surprise that they picked up six gold awards at the Great Taste Awards, the foodie equivalent of the Oscars. The free-range farm offers top-notch pork products including these Lincolnshire pork pies, 500g, £3.99 each. Contact 01427 628270, redhillfarm.com. ►

CREATING A STIR



Good-looking and practical, the award-winning Boomerang Wok by Royal VKB features an innovative, cupped edge, so your stir-fry can be turned with a flick of a spatula. It costs £89.95 from 95percentdutch.com.