



Shopping



Nick Curran



Zip-up wine cooler £19.95



Battery-operated Vin Chilla £89.95



Sapporo beer £1.70 and, below left, Goldfish crackers £1.95

The hip picnic guide

Nicole Swengley asks the experts what they pack in their picnic baskets

Chris Galvin, head chef at The Orrey: I take classic French sourdough bread, Pain Poilâne. It's fantastic with anything from smoked salmon to cheese and ideal for picnics because it keeps beautifully. The good news is Pain Poilâne is no longer exclusive to Paris since the opening of Poilâne in Belgravia.
Where to buy: Poilâne, 46 Elizabeth Street, SW1 (020 7806 4910).

Heston Blumenthal, head chef at The Fat Duck at Bray: I have recently discovered battery-operated ice buckets with an in-built temperature gauge — perfect for keeping a lovely bottle of Müller Catoir Riesling chilled.
Where to buy: battery-operated Vin Chilla £89.95, at Harrods (020 7730 1234).

Gary Rhodes, chef of Rhodes restaurants: I take a big batch of fresh langoustine, fresh wedges of lemon and a big pot of home-made mayonnaise for dipping them in.
Where to buy: 3kg of fresh langoustine can be delivered to your door for £21 plus £10 p&p via the on-line farmers' market, www.realproducts.co.uk

Edward Sullivan, bar critic: a new vodka from Sweden called "seriously..." It's the perfect one-shot drink for picnics because you can drink it on its own at room temperature, unlike

most vodkas which are best drunk straight from the freezer.

Where to buy: £15.99, from Harvey Nichols wine shop (020 7201 8537).

Lindsay Bareham, food writer: pack a jar of roasted whole Navarro piquillo sweet red peppers. They're bottled in olive oil which can be drizzled over salads. Tear off some bread, smear with pesto and pop the peppers on top — delicious. If you want to be really lazy, dive into Marks and Spencer and buy a selection of meze-style Mediterranean snacks from its new Share the Taste range. They come in little bowls with resealable tops (£1 to £3 each).
Where to buy: Navarro piquillo sweet red peppers, £3.49 from Sainsbury's Special Selection.



Andrew Jefford, wine critic: slip in a bottle of 1999 White Ochre. OK, the name's an oxymoron but there's nothing contradictory about the wine inside. It's made from Riesling, the perfect picnic drink, but this is Riesling with a difference. This is the laziest, plumpest

dry Riesling in the world and it's just longing to idle away a hot afternoon with you (provided, of course, that you've wrapped it in an ice sleeve first).

Where to buy: 1999 White Ochre d'Arenberg, McLaren Vale, Australia, £12.99, from Oddbins. Zip-up wine cooler

£19.95 plus £3.95 p&p from Ocean (0870 242 6283 www.oceansoutdoor.com).

Henrietta Green, author of The Farmer's Market Cookbook: I'm a great spur-of-the-moment picnicker and keep an instant picnic set in the back of my car — glasses, rug, corkscrew, cutlery, sharp knife and a bottle of oil.
Where to buy: camping cutlery tool £9.95; pocket corkscrew £12.95 from Ocean (as above). Metro Insulated picnic backpack £19.95. Plus £3.95 p&p per order from Ocean (0870 242 6283 www.oceancatalogue.com).

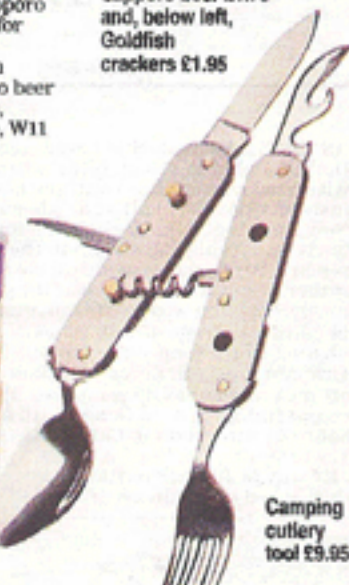
Tom Conran, owner of Tom's delicatessen: Cheese-flavoured Goldfish-shaped crackers are very handy for keeping children happy and cans of Sapporo beer are my favourite for cooling down.
Where to buy: Goldfish crackers £1.95; Sapporo beer £1.70, both from Tom's, 226 Westbourne Grove, W11 (020 7221 8818).



3kg of fresh langoustine, £21



Insulated picnic backpack £19.95



Camping cutlery tool £9.95