



In the KITCHEN

This month, we check out chestnuts, plan Christmas lunch with a twist and track down all manner of festive treats

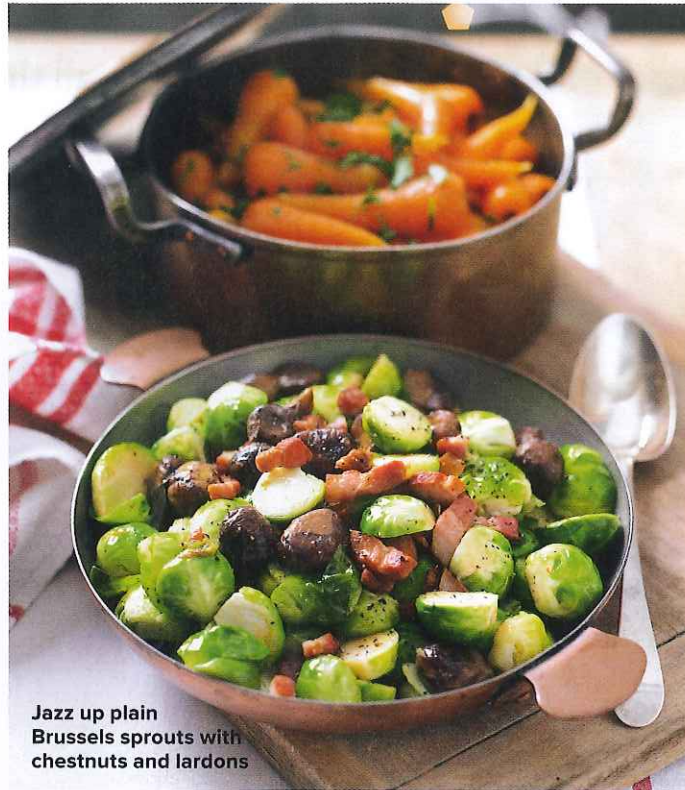
FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

TRY A NEW TASTE

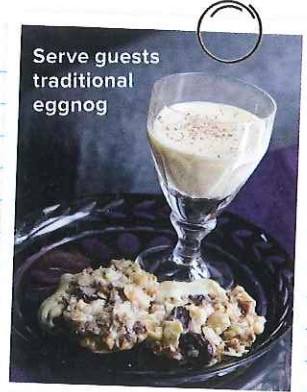
Chestnuts

These shiny nuts encased in prickly cases are a seasonal treat. Crumbly and crunchy when cooked (never eat them raw), they're available fresh, ground, dried, puréed or precooked and vacuum packed. Roasting them releases a lovely aroma and you can use them in stuffings, sauces and stews, or, as here, to add a bit of crunch to vegetable dishes.

HOW TO USE Cook 320g trimmed Brussels sprouts in simmering water for 3-5min until tender. Drain. Fry 100g bacon lardons in 2tbsp olive oil until crispy. Set aside. In the same pan, stir-fry 200g peeled, cooked, ready-to-use whole chestnuts with the sprouts for 3-5min until the sprouts are tender and chestnuts heated through. Top with the lardons.



Jazz up plain Brussels sprouts with chestnuts and lardons



Serve guests traditional eggnog

To-do list for DECEMBER

EAT a pudding packed with boozy fruit and aromatic spices, like Tesco's Finest Ultimate Christmas pudding, £16, which serves 12 people.

DRINK a glass of creamy eggnog. Simply add a large slug of brandy or dark rum to Borden premium eggnog (946ml), £6, Ocado.com, for a fabulous, festive tittle.

TREAT someone to a Bettys' gift box or hamper. Prices start at £25 for a Christmas Teatime Gift Selection with fruit cake, shortbread and tea.

3 of the best TURKEY ALTERNATIVES

£5.99



Veggie delight
A nut and dried-fruit filling topped with mushrooms and creamy spinach in puff pastry
Chestnut & cranberry Wellington (440g), Waitrose

Big and beefy
Delicious British beef expertly trimmed and with the bone left in for extra flavour and easy carving
Market Street bone-in rib-eye beef joint, Morrisons



£18 per kg

From £70



Juicy goosey
Try a ready-to-roast Freedom Food goose for a rich, magnificent festive centrepiece
Free-range goose (5kg), Taste the Difference range, Sainsbury's

Look what we found!

Carve the turkey on this porcelain platter's central wooden board, then add your vegetables around the edge to serve

Universal Expert serving platter, Sebastian Conran range, John Lewis



IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Count down to the big day with an indulgent calendar



£30

Chic chocs
A daily truffle, caramel, praline or ganache in a smart box from the chocolatier to the Queen
Prestat Advent calendar, John Lewis

£10.95

Sweet treat
Every day, a cute character choc pops up in the window of a traditional Italian building
Carluccio's Advent calendar, Carluccio's

