

Compiled by Bruce Miller

If you know of a new food product and would like to see it featured, please e-mail consumer writer Bruce Miller at bmiller@baltimoreexaminer.com.

COFFEE



IT'S NOT YOUR ORDINARY STARBUCKS

StarbucksT Liqueur: \$22.99 per 750ml bottle

With coffee and cream enthusiasts in mind, Starbucks has introduced two new liqueurs that contain the flavors of its signature product.

For coffee lovers, the liqueur uses 100 percent Starbucks House Blend combined with quality spirits for a full-bodied taste and smooth finish. According to the company, the liqueur is mixable and versatile, lending itself to a variety of cocktail recipes.

StarbucksT Cream Liqueur, is a blend of fresh cream, premium spirits and a hint of Starbucks coffee. The company says consumers can enjoy it over ice, added to coffee or as a signature ingredient in a favorite cocktail.

The liqueurs are sold in licensed bars, restaurants and retail outlets. They are not sold in Starbucks stores.

COFFEE THAT HELPS USERS SHED POUNDS

JavaFit Coffees: \$17 to \$20

In response to a growing number of people who want to live healthier lifestyles and who also drink coffee every day, Java Coffee Co. has unveiled JavaFit, a functional, high-energy, fat-burning gourmet coffee that helps users stay fit, according to the company.

The coffee is a blend of hand-roasted Latin American gourmet Arabica coffee beans, available in five formulas, each of which is enhanced with vitamins, minerals and nutritional supplements that Java Coffee Co. increase calorie-burning potential to give users more energy, improve exercise performance and achieve a new level of fitness. It is available in 12-oz. packages yielding 48 to 60 servings with a month's supply of "On-The-Go Filters." The available formulas are JavaFit Calcium, JavaFit Multivitamin, JavaFit Diet, JavaFit Diet Plus and JavaFit Energy Plus.



WINES

It's all about the packaging

If consumer purchases are based on the appeal of a product's packaging, Boisset America could be in for a busy season with the launch of Lulu B., a new line of French wine that boasts highly visible packaging.

The wines feature a trendy screw cap and the name of the varieties printed on the front label in bold colors. Available in syrah, chardonnay and pinot noir, the wines are expected to be highly successful, especially among female consumers, the company says. Above the varietal label is an image of Lulu B., the winemaker who beckons consumers to savor a glass of her product.

"There are very few fun and accessible French wines with New World appeal on the U.S. market," said Lisa Heisinger, marketing director, Boisset America. "Research indicates that women dominate purchases of imported table wines in the U.S. and account for over 52 percent of total consumption. With this in mind, Lulu B. has created wines that appeal to the modern, sophisticated female consumer, yet are approachable by men."

Lulu B. wines: \$10



A TASTE OF CHILE

Root 1 [The Original Ungrafted]: \$11.99

Click Wine Group has added a new Chilean cabernet sauvignon called Root: 1 [The Original Ungrafted].

According to the Seattle-based company, the new wine is the result of a partnership between Click and Viafata Ventisquero Rancagua, Chile. The company said the wine demonstrates the country's "remarkable advances in winemaking expertise."

The wine is characterized by a deep ruby color and intense aromas of red fruit, cassis and hints of vanilla, the company said. Root: 1 is also balanced with soft red tannins and cherry and plum flavors that combine with a long, complex finish that pairs itself with mature cheese and grilled meats, Click says.



NEW FRENCH WINE HITS U.S. SHELVES

French Rabbit Wines: \$9.99

French Rabbit Wines last month introduced a new line of French wines in the United States. The wines are 2004 vintage from Languedoc, and varietals include pinot noir, chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and merlot.

Designed to be environmentally friendly, the wines are packaged in Tetra Pak containers called ePods. The company said the ePods are lightweight, easy to transfer and shatter-proof. Standing at 1 liter, the ePod serves two more glasses of wine than the traditional 750 ml wine bottle and is recyclable and reduces packaging waste by 90 percent.



SAVORIES FOR A SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY

Robert Rothschild Farm products: Price range \$7 to \$10

Robert Rothschild Farm, maker of a specialty food line that includes preserves, mustards, dips, salsas, sauces, dressings and sweet toppings, has added seven new items to its line.

The Urbana, Ohio-based company's products are available at more than 5,000 stores nationwide, including six venues in Baltimore. Its new items in the "savory sauce" category include a Mushroom Trio Marinade & Simmer Sauce, Ginger Wasabi Teriyaki Marinade & Simmer Sauce, Blackberry Chipotle Oven & Grill Sauce, Caramelized Onion Balsamic Spread, and Mango Salsa.

In its new ready-to-serve appetizers and hors d'oeuvres category, the company has concocted a Romano Cheese & Horseradish Dip, along with Cinnamon Bun Caramel Dessert Sauce & Dip in its sweet treat category.

HANGOVER CURE AT HAND

FUNCTION Urban detox: \$2 per bottle

It happens to the best of us. That bottle of wine you had with dinner tasted so good you ordered another — and now you're paying for it with a tremendous hangover.

Help may be at hand, though, with the Northeast launch of FUNCTION Urban detox, a new health beverage that promises to cure and prevent hangovers.

Created by a team of physicians at UCLA and produced by M.D. Drinks Inc., the product is an all-natural, caffeine- and preservative-free beverage infused with an enzyme called N-acetyl cysteine (NAC), which doctors use to treat patients who have alcohol poisoning. The company says the beverage cleanses the body of toxins and inflammation that causes hangover symptoms such as lethargy, headaches, nausea and red eyes and dry skin.

The beverage is flavored with prickly pear fruit, another purported hangover remedy and orange. The company recommends drinking the product on ice after a night on the town or the morning after.

