

Stocking up *for* Christmas

Plump up your festive fare with goodies from Surrey's premier producers, says Catherine Whyte



**Best
BUY**

Christmas cake

Velvet Fig in Dorking makes cakes to die for – just a cursory glance at the website is enough to make those taste buds tingle. Owner Emma's core products for the season are the Christmas cakes (prices from £30), gingerbread men and 'stars in jars'. In addition, gingerbread houses and wreaths can be made bespoke (£15 each, minimum order of two).

■ Order before December 5: velvetfig.com



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Food News

New local brew

Grown and brewed locally, Farnham Prima Donna is the heady product of the collaboration between Tilford Brewery and The Farnham Beer Project, whose members – known as Farnham Hoppers – each grow and harvest a hop plant in their gardens. The bounty then goes to Tilford Brewery's HQ at the Duke of Cambridge pub (also in Tilford) to be transformed into a 4.0% single hoppy blonde ale. Take a tippie at local pubs including The Queen's Head in East Clandon.

Princess and the tea?

The Tea Terrace at House of Fraser, Guildford is making dreams come true with its Cinderella-style carriage dining. Be warned though: it comes with a right royal price tag: on top of the £21 per person minimum spend, there's an additional £12.95 per person fee. Sits four adults (six at a squeeze). Marie Antoinette would be proud.

■ To book visit: theteaterrace.com

Doctor's orders

Welcome to the refreshed and rebranded The Medicine Garden Restaurant, Cobham, situated in the gorgeous Victorian conservatory (formerly home to The Hothouse Café). Open from 8.30am to 2.30pm, it's a great spot for breakfast or brunch thanks to the appetising range of plates to choose from such as: autumn slaw with radicchio, locally sourced homemade pork sausage rolls with their own fig chutney; or, courgette and mint fritters with mint and honey.

■ Tuck in: themedicinegarden.com

New choc on the block

Back in my April column, I featured basket-loads of luxury chocolates from national and local independents alike. I'm delighted to hear that one of them – Ildiko's Chocolates – now has a permanent base in its very own premises at 17 High Street, Great Bookham.

■ Do pop in: ildikoschocolate.co.uk



After dinner chocolates

How about this Around The World selection of single origin Miniature Christmas Trees from Urban Village Chocolates, based near Richmond. One to get the conversation going, surely.

■ Priced from £11.95. Buy from Bentalls, Kingston or online: urbanvillagechocolates.co.uk

Turkey

Bramble Farm – a third generation turkey farm in West Horsley – is one of the best places to bag your bird. Turkeys are free range and fed on GM free feed. Prices this year start from £11.50 per kg. Turkey crowns, rolls and breast rolls also available. Beware: get your order in quickly as turkeys are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Collection is from the farm on Shere Road, West Horsley:

■ Either call: 01483 282548 or visit: bramblefarm.co.uk



Beer

Liquid delicatessen Real Ale in Twickenham, stocks some great beer packages such as the pictured Winter Variety case (£40) and the seasonal 12 Craft Beers of Christmas case, which includes tasting notes (£39.95), as well as tipples such as Black Christmas, a stout by Ealing's Weird Beard brewery.

■ Go to: realale.com



Cheese

Christmas without a cheeseboard is like Easter without the chocolate. I'd recommend laying your hands on a Best of British cheese box from the ever-excellent Partisan Cheesemongers in Guildford. It comprises four superlative cheeses from the world-beating Tunworth Camembert (named the best in the world by Raymond Blanc) to the firm, strong Old Winchester. Cost: £29.

■ To place your order visit: partisan-deli.co.uk



Fizz

Stock up on Christmas fizz with a Sparkling Package from Denbies. At £142.95, you'll get two bottles of the award-winning Greenfields NV, two Sparkling Rosé as well as a bottle of White Wines and Demi-Sec (both excellent aperitif wines). Price includes delivery.

■ Go to: denbies.co.uk