

Superquinn and super Lidl

Superquinn is coming over all sophisticated this month with their annual French wine sale. Running from 23 March until 19 April, over 60 wines will be reduced by between 25 and 50 per cent as well as some super offers on case deals. With prices starting at just €6, favourites such as La Croisade (€8), Crozes Hermitage White Etienne Barret (€11) and Rare Vineyards Carignan Vieilles Vignes (€6) are just some of the offers available. Louis D'Or Champagne is half price at just €20. Not to be outdone, Lidl is gearing up for Easter with some sweet deals on just about everything you need to celebrate the occasion.

Apart from a wide range of chocolate treats to suit all budgets, Lidl is also stocking a variety of Easter wines and foods including Prosecco for €6.79 and Champagne Brut for €17.99. Check out www.lidl.ie for further information on its Easter deals.



Lidl's Easter wine



Pandora Bell's real Easter range

Pretty in pink

Peeling away the pretty pastel shells of Easter eggs can be heartbreaking, but Pandora Bell has definitely made each crack worthwhile. Real chicken eggshells filled with smooth praline chocolate make Easter morning that much sweeter – and ups the ante when it comes to the hunt. Made with the best natural ingredients and praline chocolate, these delectable little treats are available for single purchase (€2.75 each) at local gourmet retailers, or in sets of three with a limited edition Easter-week bag at Arnotts. You will never switch back to hard boiled after breaking into one of these naughty treats. Visit www.pandorabell.ie.

Happy haven

The award winning Blue Haven Food Company recently opened its first retail outlet in the new Douglas Village Shopping Centre opposite Marks & Spencer food hall, Cork. Up until now the Kinsale company's signature range of patés, chowder, soups and pies have been available in most major retailers across Ireland. The new gourmet store in Douglas will be packed with the award-winning 'Fresh from Kinsale' range, as well as a host of exciting new additions including meals, sauces, pastries, cakes and much more. Visit www.bluehavenfoodco.com for more information.



Launch of the new Douglas Blue Haven store

Inside scoop

Regular visitors to Southern Rhône and Provence in France or simply admirers from afar can now keep up to date with the latest food and wine developments at the click of a button. Irish wine, food and travel writer Mary Dowey has set up a new website, with several posts added every week, where she keeps Provence enthusiasts up to date on her latest food and wine discoveries as well as fantastic little gems of places to stay. Follow Mary and her discoveries as well as sharing your own knowledge on the area at www.provencefoodandwine.com



Mary Dowey



Congratulations!

Pictured at the Tipperary FOOD&WINE Christmas quiz presentation in The Merrion Hotel, Dublin, is prize winner Rory Fanning, Marie Cooney, director Tipperary Natural Mineral Water, Raymond Blake, F&W wine editor, and Anne Marie Tumilty, brand manager Laurent Perrier, Gleasons Incorporating Gilbeys.

Cheese, please

We Irish sure do like our cheese, however, when it comes to the ubiquitous toastie, it seems some of us are a bit more adventurous than others. Charleville cheese recently conducted a study to find out how cheese-mad we are as a nation. When it comes to toasties, Dubliners like to keep things plain and simple – bread, butter, and cheese. Galwegians are particularly fond of onions but things get a little bit wacky in Waterford where 18 per cent of people say their toastie of choice would include bacon and bananas. Whatever floats your boat people.

Pack for a purpose

is a new charity initiative with a very simple concept. Tourists and travellers destined for more exotic locations are encouraged to use a small space in their suitcase to carry much needed medical supplies and educational materials for their chosen destination. By saving just 2.27kg of space in your luggage, you could help provide children in disadvantaged areas with necessities that we often take for granted. Simply pop the donations into your luggage and drop them off at the nearest site to your exotic holiday spot. To learn more about this fantastic initiative see www.packforapurpose.org

