



FOOD & WINE HOT 100

There may well have been a time when you'd struggle to find 100 items worthy of inclusion in a culinary Hot 100 but that is certainly no longer the case. Each year the difficult task of deciding what should be included almost outweighs the agonies over what we must leave out, so with this in mind we stress that this is not in numerical order. How could we choose between Tasmanian bubbly and home-grown apple cider, or culinary Apps for your iPhone and award winning cookery books? Well, we haven't. So if you spot something at number 100 we think it's as worthy as what's at number one.

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1 **The sweetest thing**

For those of us who grew up on rice krispie buns and shortbread we've come a long way. The last decade saw the rise of the American muffin; like the culinary version of the grey squirrel, it bullied its way into the sugar scene so that delicacies like the fairy cake were all but forgotten. But the French soon fought back – breathy clouds of perfumed macarons have now become the indulgent nibble de jour. It started with the couture looking boxes of Ladurée in Brown Thomas but it wasn't long before the fashion spread. Still, we think the home-grown Cake Stand lovelies have the edge on Ladurée. www.thecakestand.ie