



Book gong on the bubble



FINE COMPANY: Bernadette O'Shea's book is in the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in Paris.

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CHAMPAGNE connoisseur Bernadette O'Shea has been "jumping higher than the bubbles in my glass" since her book, *Champagne & Chandeliers: Grand Dining Celebrations*, was nominated for a gong at the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in Paris.

"It's so exciting to be nominated as one of four in the world - what an honour and a compliment," Fortitude Valley's Wine Emporium champagne consultant said.

The winner will be decided in early March.

Ms O'Shea's book explores such historic dinners as the Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana, where 1969 Krug was served to accompany the brill in lobster sauce, and the inaugural dinner on the *Titanic*, at which more than 70 different champagnes were on offer.

Max Allen, wine writer for *The Australian* and author of *The Future Makers*, has also been nominated.



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Shopgirl



with Niki Lutze

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VALENTINE'S DAY IS LESS THAN A WEEK AWAY AVOID LAST-MINUTE PETROL STATION FLOWERS AND COME PREPARED WITH MY SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT GUIDE.

SENSUAL DELIGHTS
IF you plan to buy lingerie for your partner, make sure you know her size and personal style before you venture forth. Try and keep it classy and classic to make her feel beautiful and sensual. For women with bigger busts and curves, try Playtex. Its designs are supportive and sexy and are stocked at Myer and David Jones. Cotton On offers fun and flirty designs for younger Valentines including the Katie crop love heart tee (\$19.95), Joanna Brazilian boyleg (\$9.95, both pictured) and the Cinderella collection (lace booster bra \$19.95, lace flirty bikini \$9.95, suspender belt \$9.95). Pleasure State White Label, available at Honey Birdette, features luxurious pieces such as the Papilio bra (\$49.95) and matching mini brief (\$24.95) or the Chimera bra (\$74.95), thong (\$39.95) and suspender belt (\$59.95) set.



PLUSH LOVE

A PLUSH toy bearing your message of love is a classic, sweet Valentine's Day gift that won't break the budget. GUND has a selection of fluffy creations sure to delight on February 14. Standouts include the GUND McCarthy Bear (\$29.95) and the Fun Mailin Monkey (\$69.95) while cat lovers will adore a NICI Love Cat plush (\$29.95) Stockist details at www.jasnor.com.au

ANYTHING BUT FLOWERS

TIRED of buying the same over-priced flowers for your loved one every single Valentine's Day? Try something different this at www.everythingbutflowers.com.au Choose between gourmet alcohol hampers (including a bloke-friendly beer hamper), decadent food packs, spa package vouchers, books and more.



PAGE-TURNING IDEAS

WOO your Valentine with the newly released *Champagne and Chandeliers: Grand Dining Celebrations* written by Brisbane's Bernadette O'Shea. The coffee table book details extravagant and memorable dining occasions throughout history. *Champagne & Chandeliers* (\$120) is sold in select bookstores or at www.champagneconsultant.com Lovers of fiction may enjoy *The Essential Ingredient - Love* (\$24.95) by Brisbane author Tracy Madden. The novel captures the emotional journey of Chilli Montgomery whose world is turned upside down when tragedy strikes. *The Essential Ingredient - Love* is in bookstores and at www.panmacmillan.com.au



DAZZLE WITH JEWELLERY

WHETHER buying for an avid charm collector or acquiring her first piece, Thomas Sabo's new *love* collection is fun and fresh. Try the KISS ring (\$339), Love bracelet (\$499), or lips necklace (\$139) from www.thomassabo.com Give your special someone flowers that last forever from Lannah Dunn jewellers. The range is stocked at www.lannahdunn.com and features sterling silver Camelia earrings (\$45), a sterling silver and onyx Camelia necklace (\$385) and the Bloom collection of pendants and rings. While diamonds are a girl's best friend, their price tag usually puts them well out of reach. Secrets sells "diamond simulants" so you can give the look to your loved one, without the hefty price tag. Pieces start at \$80 and Secrets stores are at Westfield Chermside, Garden City and Broadway On The Mall.

