

Town & Country

ESTABLISHED IN 1846

SPECIAL
HOLIDAY ISSUE

STEP
INTO
THE
SEASON!

MORE
THAN
225
GIFTS

2 NO-FAIL
PARTY TIPS

PLUS:
WHAT TO
PACK FOR A
5-DAY TRIP

KELLI
O'HARA
BROADWAY'S
BRIGHTEST
STAR



DECEMBER 2008 \$4.50



Kelli O'Hara
Donna Karan New York

IN THE COUNTRY

American Tastes

Foods, music and other gifts for the holiday season—and beyond.

The spicy tang of the **Mississippi Cheese Straw Factory's** Traditional Cheddar Cheese Straws and the sweetness of the Original Lemon Straws (10 oz, \$14; 16 oz, \$20) result from old recipes used by Yazoo City bakers. A Southern holiday staple, these biscuits pack a flavorful punch. mscheesestraws.com.

Haute harmony is the essence of the sweet-and-salty mingling that occurs in Peanut Butter Bonbons from **Vosges**. The organic-peanut-butter-filled milk-chocolate squares are seasoned with pink Himalayan salt and flakes of *fleur de sel*. Nine flavor bombs in a decorative purple sleeve can be had for \$27. vosgeschocolate.com.

The **Savannah Bee Company's** buttery and golden tupelo honey (20 oz, \$23) is collected from beehives located in the remote swamplands of Georgia and Florida. Their busy inhabitants pollinate the rare and indigenous white-blossomed tupelo trees. Try the honey drizzled over blue cheese. savannahbee.com.

Colorado Mountain Fine Jams & Jellies are kettle boiled at the Plum Daisy Kitchen near Palisade, Colorado. Made of fruit harvested from the orchards of founders Brian and Judith Olsen and those of other farmers, the organic Apple Pie, Strawberry Rhubarb and Spiced Plum (8 oz, \$6 each) partner deliciously with pancakes, scones and meats. plumdaisy.com.

Robert Lambert's syrups are cooked up in his northern California kitchen. His White Ginger Syrup (5 oz, \$10) makes a stealthy zinger when mixed with sparkling water, Blood Orange (5 oz, \$10) is dreamy over ice cream, and Dark Cherries in Merlot Syrup (8 oz, \$12) is unpitted pleasure alongside duck, pork or lamb. robertlambert.com.

Souren Etyemezian and his wife, Susan, have brought the traditional style of hand roasting nuts in small batches to Watertown, Massachusetts, where they produce—by special order—the **Fastachi** Cranberry Nut Mix (1 lb, \$8.99). fastachi.com. **SUZANNE GANNON**