

# Picky Eater: Framboisines, habanero sugar popcorn and more

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For the Bay Area News Group

Take an entire basket of fresh summer raspberries, drop them in a bowl of eau de vie, and what you get is the uber-elegant Framboisines, the newest gourmet import from Quel Objet, a company that specializes in all things French. The berries, just as pretty as they were when fresh, can be spooned on top of ice cream or Greek yogurt, but they are so elegant, you may want to save them for a party. They're particularly fabulous in champagne.

Although they have all the perfume and raspberry-ness of fresh fruit, it's important to note that Framboisines are definitely an adult treat — they pack an alcohol punch from the eau de vie. In case you are wondering, yes, the berries are very much like the more familiar Griottines, Morello cherries steeped in liqueur. A jar of Framboisines is \$30. Order online at [www.quelobjet.com](http://www.quelobjet.com) or call 877-762-4499.

**JUMBO TREAT:** You could bring a bottle of wine, or a fistful of flowers for your party host. But I'm thinking, why not go off-the-charts decadent and plunk a 1½-pound caramel-chocolate-pecan-encrusted apple on the table? Where the confectioners at Mrs. Prindables find such mondo-sized apples, I do not know. It takes a bit of muscle to cut into these, but the topping sticks really well to the skin of the apple, which is key.

I love the contrast of the super-tart green apple with the sweet,

chewy crust. It's a perfect dessert. Even better, the uncut apple keeps for days at room temperature, even longer if you refrigerate it. The jumbo apples, crusted with all natural ingredients, are \$26.95 for the ones with fancy decorations; \$22.95 for apples topped with a simple ribbon. Shipping costs \$11, but \$1 more gets you shipping on two. Order deadlines are today for Hanukkah, Dec. 21 for Christmas; [www.MrsPrindables.com](http://www.MrsPrindables.com); 888-215-1100.

**POP PICK:** If December finds you in sugar overload-mode, but you're still looking for fancy edible gifts, the San Francisco-based 479 Popcorn company has just rolled out a new option: a P.I.Y. Kit. The kit (\$35) includes 32 ounces of natural popcorn, oil, gourmet flavorings — toasted coconut sugar, curry salt, habanero sugar and roasted onion salt — and fancy papers for making old fashioned cone holders. The company also sells an extraordinarily tasty and creative lineup of flavored popcorn, including Ginger-Sesame and Curry

Coconut with Cashews. Available at Draeger's stores, Diablo Foods in Lafayette, The Pasta Shop in Oakland and Berkeley, or online at [www.479popcorn.com](http://www.479popcorn.com).