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Objects of Our Obsession

1. OAK BOARD

The Wooden Palate's handcrafted board is perfect for my pared-down entertaining style. Built-in sections for dip mean fewer bowls to clean. \$395; thewoodenpalate.com. —Alex Vallis

2. ALUMINUM ROLLER

This lightweight metal pin stays cool, so the butter in my pie dough doesn't melt as I roll it out. \$40; kmnhome.com. —Christine Quinlan

3. ENGLISH MUFFINS

Stone & Skillet's yeasty version is like a cross between a Portuguese sweet roll and an English muffin. \$5 for 4; stoneandskillet.com. —CQ

4. COOKBOOK CARDS

These adorable postcards, featuring vintage cookbook covers from around the world, led me to embrace snail mail again. \$25 for 100; barnesandnoble.com. —Kate Heddings

5. HANDMADE JAM

Miranda Rake's not-too-sweet jam has huge chunks of Oregon berries, great in my daily yogurt and granola. \$13 for 8 oz.; plumtreejam.com. —Chelsea Morse

6. TEA INFUSER

My rugged alternative to flimsy metal strainers; I use it to brew all my favorite loose teas. \$15; dreamfarm.com. —Ben Mims

7. FLORENCE GUIDE

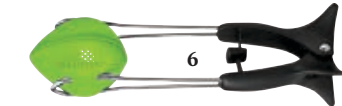
The Cognoscenti's Guide to Florence by Louise Fili and Lise Apatoff has all the best food stops, plus insidery tips on where to shop for everything from ceramics to hats. \$16; papress.com. —Tina Ujlaki

8. SMOKY ALMONDS

Barsy's supercrunchy, hickory-smoked almonds are my ideal afternoon snack. \$7.50 for 8 oz.; france44.com. —Julia Heffelfinger

9. PISTACHIO PASTE

Made with Sicilian nuts grown in volcanic soil, Il Colle Del Gusto pistachio paste is an intense flavor experience. It turns vanilla ice cream into instant pistachio gelato. \$21 for 8 oz.; amazon.com. —TU



10. ICONIC BERLIN HOTEL

A former haunt of Sophia Loren, Hotel Zoo is now a modern fashion hangout. Diane von Furstenberg designed the leopard-print carpet.

DOUBLES FROM \$136; HOTELZOO.DE.

—M. ELIZABETH SHELDON



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