

## Peaches



### SOME COMFORTS

It's a mystery how Farmhouse Cookery makes such a great homemade product on a commercial scale, but its peach and fig cake – moist and sticky and luscious – is clearly baked with love. £11 for a 5in cake, £14 for 7in; 01243 574767

### THE SWEETEST THING

Give firm-textured Italian peaches in dolcetto a boost with ice-cream or mascarpone for an easy, down-up pudding that evokes a faint nostalgia for tinned peaches. £5.50 for 650g at Carluccio's; 020-7580 3050; www.carluccios.com

### GOLDEN SYRUP

For the sweet-toothed, Monin's peach syrup is a dream. Mix with orange juice and milk for an unusual tippie, or apricot liqueur and vodka for something stronger. Two 75cl bottles cost £4.98 plus p&p; 01795 476154; www.b-opie.com

### HOT STUFF

Mostarda di frutta offers a blast of mustard seed, peaches, apricots, plums and grapes. Excellent with cold meat or cheese. Mostarda di Voghera is £4.95 for 380g from Mortimer & Bennett; 020-8995 4145; www.mortimer-bennett.co.uk

### BELLISSIMO

Fans of the bellini, a cocktail made with prosecco and white peach purée, should try Funkin's purée – 90 per cent fruit and ten per cent sugar. £3.95 for 300g at Waitrose and Harvey Nichols; £4.95 mail order (020-8953 9751)

### POSH TART

This refined tarte du marché is filled with peaches, redcurrants and fragrant frangipane. Maison Blanc sells it in individual (£1.90), six-portion (£12.95) and eight-portion (£14.60) sizes; 020-8838 0848; www.maisonblanc.co.uk



## Drinks of the week Italian whites under £5

**VILLA MASERA 2003** Pressed from the garganega grape – from which soave is made – this light, organic, earthy white made near Verona is a simple easy-drinking wine. (£4.49, Marks & Spencer)

**TRULLI CHARDONNAY DEL SALENTO 2003** This elegant chardonnay from the southern Italian region of Puglia knocks spots off similarly priced whites from the new world. (£4.99, Somerfield)

**VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI MONCARO 2003** A modest cost isn't the only attraction of this little-known wine from the Marche region of Italy; it also has a spicy richness that is rare in this price bracket. (£4.29, Waitrose)

**TENUTA DELLE MARMORELLE 2003** Frascati may have fallen from favour recently, but its refreshing, mineral character can at times still offer light relief from the assertive flavours of more fashionable wines. (£4.49, Waitrose)

**CANTINE SETTESOLI 2003** Sicily's gargantuan wineries produce some of Italy's best-value whites, such as this simple, lively variety. (£3.49, or £2.97 when any two Italian wines bought as part of a case, Majestic) ● GILES KIME