

First Crack

HOT PRODUCTS & FRESH PRESS



Next-Generation Probatino

Probat's smallest shop roaster is now even easier to use. The redesigned, 1-kilo Probatino now boasts glass in the discharging door to enable roaster-operators to watch the roasting process in action. The control panel is now more ergonomically placed on the left side of the machine, and all operator controls as well as digital displays for roasting time and temperature are directed to the roaster-operator. Plus, improvements to the cooling sieve now enable quicker and easier discharging and cleaning. The new Probatino is available in black and silver, or black and brass. Probat, www.probat.com

Drink It, Compost It

After more than two years in development, Pacific Bag, Inc. has released a compostable valve bag made from Biotre Film, a 1-pound kraft side-gusset bag and a one-way degassing valve. Biotre Film effectively preserves and protects coffee, yet is designed to break down in a backyard composter. Biotre Film is composed of 60 percent (by weight) biodegradable materials made from renewable resources such as wood pulp; based on previous tests, biodegradation will take an average of several months in a composter. The remaining 40 percent of the bag's



weight is composed of polyethylene (PE) from fossil fuels with an additive that is designed to make it break down over five to 10 years, thus reducing its impact on

the waste stream compared to standard PE. Pacific Bag, www.pacificbag.com

A Sugar-Free Syrup Array

Responding to requests from calorie-conscious consumers, Monin Gourmet Flavorings is offering 17 different sugar-free syrup flavors. Sugar-free syrups can be used in a variety of coffees, teas and cocoas and include the traditional choices of French Vanilla, Hazelnut and Chocolate as well as other popular flavors like Raspberry, Irish Cream and Caramel. The syrups are made with sucralose and erythritol (an all-natural sugar substitute derived from plant sources) for a taste close to sugar. The flavorings contain no sugar, no high-fructose corn syrup and no calories, making them an ideal addition to skinny drinks. Monin, www.monin.com



Ethiopia's Coffee Story

Writer, climber, guide and all-around adventure woman Majka Burhardt has written the definitive book on coffee's birthplace. In *Coffee Story: Ethiopia*—which features stunning images from photographers Travis Horn and Helmut Horn—Burhardt details Ethiopia's coffee heritage and outlines possibilities for the future. The book is a co-venture between U.S.-based Ninety Plus Press and Shama Books, an Ethiopian publishing company. *Coffee Story: Ethiopia*, www.coffeestoryethiopia.com

