

THE PASSIONATE COOK'S ESSENTIALS Fabulous Foodie Finds!

BY SUSAN GAMBLE



Do you want a break from cooking? Do you enjoy gourmet meals that you can have in the comfort of your own home? Would you like a professional *fromager* to help with cheese selections for your next wine and cheese evening? Or would you like a fun cooking class culminating in a delicious meal?

If so, The Passionate Cook's Essentials in Uxbridge – an easy 20-minute drive – is your destination. Founded in 2009, this unusual establishment brings together the skills of Lisa (the owner), a truly "passionate" cook with decades of catering experience in the corporate world; Cecilia, a certified *fromager*; and Sofi, the *sous-chef* and store designer who trained in her father's restaurant.

Their weekly "Friday Night Feast" event is very popular. By checking their website you can see the list of meals being prepared each Friday of the month, order in advance, and pick up the meal any time on your chosen Friday. Just reheat and serve! Past options have

included Passionate Lasagna, Porter Pie, Deluxe Fish Pie as well as a vegetarian option, Vegetable Tagine.

Or if you happened to be passing the area, you could stop and pick up something from their constantly-stocked freezer, such as Butter Chicken, Chicken Cacciatore, Boeuf Bourguignon or a variety of soups.

Cooking classes are held in the evenings (7:00 – 9:30 p.m.) or on Sunday afternoons (12:00 – 2:30 p.m.). They include such appetizing selections as "Tapas & Wine Pairing," "Can't Get Enough Pizza," "Back to Morocco" and "Brunch." But book early because they sell out fast!

The store has a comprehensive selection of cheeses from different countries to please any palate, as well as other unusual treats suitable for guests – or as a special treat for you! Your friends at The Passionate Cook's Essentials will be happy to help you select from their mouth-watering selection of offerings.

Last but by no means least is their impressive selection of kitchenware and accoutrements. You can find specialty items such as Spanish paella pans, pizza stones, fondue pots, hard to find condiments (e.g. Moroccan preserved lemons), kitchen knives of every description, as well as attractive aprons and napkins.

When you feel like something different – drop by and give them a try!



THE PASSIONATE COOK'S ESSENTIALS

68 Brock Street West, Uxbridge

Tel: 905.862.3359

www.thepassionatecook.ca

Hours of Business:

Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.