

New Season's Collections

Taking delivery of the new season's jewellery collections is one of the most exciting parts of the job. The design aptitude and craftsmanship that goes into creating the items we choose to showcase at Berridges is utterly inspiring, none more so than the Thomas Sabo Sterling Silver range.

Is it any wonder that our Thomas Sabo display cabinet commands constant attention from customers? The colours used by this design house, which launches new collections each spring and autumn to coincide with the major international fashion shows in London, Milan, Paris and New York, are simply magnificent and this season they have surpassed all our expectations once again.

For spring/summer 2006 expect to see a spectrum of hues inspired by everything from Mediterranean turquoise seas to sun-drenched lime groves, perfect to wear with your summer tan.

As ever, the collection features rings, earrings, necklaces and other pieces which can be combined with each other and complemented by new items at a later date. What is especially appealing about the jewellery is its versatility – going just as well with formal business clothes as a glamorous evening dress.

If you would like to receive the new Thomas Sabo Sterling Silver brochure please call us on 01473 225525.



Fresh Fruit Shortbread

Yet another wonderful recipe from Louise for you to try at home. Enjoy!

Ingredients

Shortbread Mix
8oz/225gm Plain Flour
1oz/25gm Cornflour
3oz/75gm Caster Sugar
6oz/175gm Butter

Filling

500gm Whipping Cream
250gm Fresh Fruit
1oz Icing Sugar to decorate (optional)

Method

Place all the Shortbread ingredients in a bowl and mix well until fine breadcrumbs.

Bring together with hands into a ball and roll out into two rounds on a floured surface using all the mixture.

Place the Shortbread rounds on a baking sheet and prick with a fork.

Bake in the centre of the oven at 180c, gas mark 4 for 15-20 minutes until golden.

Cool slightly then cut one round into 8 triangles. Leave to cool. Once completely cooled sandwich together with cream and fruit using the 8 triangles on top, slightly overlapping as you go round.

Decorate with Icing Sugar

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Berridges

JEWELLERS

>> spring/summer 2006

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2006. The season's new jewellery collections have arrived, long (hopefully sunny) summer days lay ahead and we can look forward to teaming our jewellery with the latest fashions at everything from weddings to summer barbecues...

The aim, as always, is to keep our newsletter fresh, entertaining and informative. In this issue we look at the pitfalls of buying jewellery abroad, talk to husband and wife employees Jeff and Louise Norman, find out more about that ultimate symbol of everlasting love – the eternity ring – and bring news of the resplendent spring/summer collection from Thomas Sabo Sterling Silver. All that, and the ever-popular recipe from the restaurant team to add to your collection.

We hope you enjoy the mix of articles and don't forget that we'll be back with another update in the autumn so do let us know if there's something you'd like to see featured. Until then, have a fantastic summer...

The perils of buying jewellery abroad

With the holiday season fast approaching and it's always tempting to return home with a new piece of jewellery or two, particularly as you can often find competitively-priced items overseas.

Some destinations have a reputation for being the source of fine gems, but there are numerous hurdles to overcome when buying far from home.



news >>

the perils of buying jewellery abroad continued

If you do find yourself about to spend a significant sum of money on a piece of jewellery abroad, ask yourself these questions first:

- > Are you purchasing from a reputable establishment and do you have confidence in their opinion?
- > If something goes wrong and you need to exchange/repair the item will this be possible?
- > Is any apparent price advantage worth the risk you may be taking?
- > Is the standard of manufacture comparable to what you may expect at home?
- > Can you be certain of the fineness of any precious metals, bearing in mind that only the UK tests all items independently?
- > Are you satisfied that you have paid all the relevant customs duties and taxes should you be challenged at the airport on your return?

A seemingly 'good buy' might be impossible to resist but never be pressurised into parting with your money. There's a lot to be said for buying peace of mind with your jewellery – and that is something a reputable local jeweller will always guarantee.



National Association of Goldsmiths Member

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Upstairs Downstairs



Our shop on Ipswich's Dial Lane is much more than just an emporium of fine jewellery collections. Indeed the first thing to hit you as you enter is the smell of fresh coffee and home baking permeating from the upstairs restaurant. This haven of calm in the heart of town is managed by Louise Norman. Louise has real flair and passion for seasonal ingredients and good home cooking and this is reflected in the array of dishes found on the menu and daily specials board, which earn her many a compliment from contented customers each week.

Louise has become very much part of the family here at Berridges, and to make the atmosphere even more familiar her husband Jeff joined the downstairs jewellery team early in 2005.

'It's a real upstairs downstairs scenario,' smiles Louise, whose busy kitchen turns out everything from scrambled eggs and smoked salmon, Thai green curries and traditional casseroles to the irresistible

cheesecakes, pavlovas and other fancies which adorn the restaurant's central sweet trolley.

Jeff gets to enjoy Louise's cooking at home each evening but during the day he can be found hard at work in the jewellery department, imparting the expert knowledge he has gained during his very successful career, which started at Croydons jewellers.

'We don't get to see too much of each other during the day as we're both busy but it's nice to know Louise is just upstairs,' he says.

Louise is also delighted with the arrangement: 'So many couples say that they don't spend enough time together because of their working schedules so we feel quite privileged,' she continues.

All that remains to say is congratulations to these two highly-valued members of the team, who, incidentally, celebrate their first wedding anniversary in May.



From here to eternity...

It's the moment true romantics among us long for: being whisked off to a beautiful location, wined and dined, and presented with an exquisite eternity ring as a symbol of everlasting love by that special someone.

Of course an eternity ring is not only something to cherish during your lifetime but it will also become a family heirloom, serving as a reminder of your very special relationship for future generations.

Delving deep into the history books reveals that the concept of giving a circle of metal with no beginning and no end - to represent togetherness forever more - is a tradition which can be traced all the way back to ancient Egypt.

The common feature of modern eternity rings is that they are stone set, often with diamonds, although other precious stones such as sapphires or rubies might also be used in conjunction, and like the wedding ring, this piece of jewellery would traditionally be worn on the third finger of the left hand.

As far as choosing a style for your eternity ring is concerned, as with everything it comes down to individual taste: ultimately you will need to decide between a 'half' hoop, meaning the stones are set on just the top of the ring, or a 'full' hoop, with stones set all around the entire circumference.

There are various advantages of choosing the classic full-hoop, all-diamond eternity ring, which has recently proved to be our customers' most popular choice by far, especially when mounted in the most precious of metals Platinum.

Not only will it look absolutely stunning and make the wearer feel very special, but should the ring turn on the finger continuous diamonds will always be seen and it also helps it to wear more evenly.

At Berridges we offer one of the most extensive ranges of eternity rings you will find in the area - as well as a bespoke design service for something completely unique - and as much free, professional advice as you need.

