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## A Toast to the Irish

Did I mention that we're big fans of whiskey from the emerald isle? Just a smidgen (wink, wink). Irish Whiskey has been steadily rising in popularity over the past half a dozen years or so. We actually get a bit giggly when new ones come on stream.

Another spirit that has been gaining in status is gin. You can, in part, thank the TV series *Downton Abbey* for this resurgence. So why are we talking about gin for St. Patrick's Day? Irish gin is a thing, to be sure. Since the late 18th century, truth be told.



We'll leave spirits history for another day. St. Patrick's Day is about fun. So we decided to end off with a limerick. Sláinte.

*We raise a glass to St. Patrick's Day / A toast to health and happiness come what may / Come fill your glass, Let's not give it a pass / Sure it'll bring a smile without delay*

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## Recipe of the month

### Spring Pea Pasta

1 pound pasta  
 3-4 cups fresh peas  
 5 scallions, thinly sliced  
 1 shallot, very finely diced  
 1 cup chopped fresh mint  
 1 cup chopped Italian parsley  
 ½ cup olive oil


2 lemons – zest and ¼ cup juice  
 2 cups fresh pea shoots, baby spinach or arugula  
 1 teaspoon salt (plus more to taste)  
 ½ teaspoon pepper  
 1 tablespoon truffle oil  
 Optional: goat cheese crumbles

Prep Time: 15 mins. Cook time: 10 mins. Yield: 4 (main) or 8 (side)

- Boil pasta in a generous amount of salted water per directions.
- During the very last minute of cooking, if serving this as a warm entrée, add the peas to the pasta and just lightly blanch.
- While the pasta is cooking, prep the rest of the ingredients.
- Chop the scallions, shallots and herbs.
- Zest two lemons, and measure out ¼ cup lemon juice.
- Once the pasta is just about done, add the peas to the boiling pasta water and blanch for one minute, or just until bright green. Immediately drain, place pasta and peas in large bowl, drizzle with olive oil, lemon juice and season with 1 tsp salt and ½ tsp pepper.
- Toss in the pea shoots (or other greens) and add the scallions, shallot, herbs and lemon zest. Stir.
- Taste, adjusting salt and lemon juice, adding more of both, if necessary.
- Drizzle with truffle oil; serve immediately.

*If making this as a pasta salad, rinse pasta and peas in very cold water to stop the peas from cooking any longer. Add goat cheese right before serving.*

**Source: www.feastingathome.com**



## Everybody's Talking

**Paring pumpkins:** When people think of carving pumpkins, scary or funny faces that frighten or amuse Halloween celebrants are what usually comes to mind. Angel Boraliev of Varna, Bulgaria, has different ideas. This pumpkin carver is an artist who sculpts amazingly realistic images and designs out of the lowly fruit. A pumpkin might be turned into a regal owl, a majestic eagle, a slithering snake, or a placid pelican. Along with pumpkins, Boraliev also enjoys using watermelons and soap as a medium.

**White deer:** The northern part of the state of New York (U.S.) is home to a rare white-tailed deer called the Seneca white deer. The animals of this type carry a recessive gene that makes their coats white instead of the usual brown. The herd was protected for many years by the Seneca Army Depot. When it closed in the 1990s, volunteers took over the care of the animals. No hunting is allowed in what is now a sanctuary for the deer, but their stark white fur makes the animals an easy target for predators. Today, the private owner of the property plans to continue to protect the herd.

**Chalky art:** Chalk is something very familiar to teachers and students. That was true for Sachin Sanghe, who came from the village of Mudugere in Karnataka, India. He took a liking to the material and started to carve things in it, starting with simple letters. Later, he carved intricate creations, such as hands, deities, and buildings. He took a break from his art to attend engineering school, but after graduating, he started carving again. His tiny sculptures can take many hours to complete, depending on the complexity. The artist admits that getting the job done requires a lot of concentration.

**Dish decorations:** Collectors of porcelain might have a cabinet or two filled with interesting finds, but a couple of cabinets would not nearly be enough to hold the collection of Nguen Van Truong of Kieu Son, Vietnam. He started collecting porcelain dishes back in the 1980s, and he became so obsessed that he soon had nowhere to put all of his acquisitions. He took some mortar, applied it to the walls of his home, and began the process of embedding the dishes into his house. Now, the inside and outside of his house are covered in about 10,000 pieces of colourful dishware.

## Quoteable Quotes

"Our deeds still travel with us from afar, and what we have been makes us who we are."  
 —George Eliot

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."  
 —James Baldwin

## What's Happening

**Online event posting** During the Pandemic, we are happy to post your online event in the What's Happening section of Coffee News. Please visit our website at [www.coffee-news.ca](http://www.coffee-news.ca) to submit your event.

**May 29-Fundraising Golf Tournament** 8:00 AM at The Ranch Golf and Country Club \$150 per player, \$550 for a foursome includes 18 holes of golf, cart and a full steak lunch silent auction. Search Eventbrite with Prescott and click current location. [president@plcfc.com](mailto:president@plcfc.com)

**Jun 3 to Sep 26-Century Park Market** Southside open air public farmers market. Open Thursdays from 3:30pm to 7:30pm. Phone 780-913-2586 for more information or visit [www.centuryparkmarket.com](http://www.centuryparkmarket.com)

**Aug 14-Ride And Drive For A Cause Charity Meet** Please register your unique ride and drive, wild exotic, Rat Rod, classic, vintage, cool, unique or custom car, custom truck or unique Suv, cruiser, or sports bike. To register your rides drives please visit our website [www.rdfcause.ca](http://www.rdfcause.ca).

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## Trivia

1. Baby swans are called cygnets, ducklings, or goslings?
2. Bluefin tuna is the largest of the tuna species—T/F?
3. In what women's sport does Megan Rapinoe excel?
4. What type of fastener did icon "Rosie" of the WWII era use?
5. The California condor has a wingspan of how many feet?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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## Your Weekly Horoscope

### ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Joining your efforts with others may work out very much to your advantage. You could reap rewards later for the generosity you extend at this time. Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 12, 31, 39, 49.

### TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Communicating with neighbours, friends, and family may be accentuated. This might be a good time to establish friendly, professional relationships, as well. Lucky Numbers: 16, 24, 31, 39, 44, 48.

### GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Your intuition or gut feelings may be right on the mark. Positive feelings and inner harmony could engender smooth and comfortable relations with others. Lucky Numbers: 6, 7, 14, 22, 26, 42.

### CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Light, pleasant interactions may be emphasized. You could gain what you want through diplomacy. You might be willing to make concessions to maintain harmony. Lucky Numbers: 4, 18, 25, 37, 41, 48.

### LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 23)



You may care passionately and respond instinctively to current events. You might be energized and eager to be involved in projects that benefit your family life. Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 17, 27, 37, 47.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)



An interest in people and psychology may come to the fore. You might be fascinated by the mysterious and could delve and probe until you discover the truth. Lucky Numbers: 2, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.

### LIBRA

(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)



This may be a good time to begin a new business enterprise or a new venture. You could have the drive and courage to make your vision a reality. Lucky Numbers: 8, 10, 17, 28, 30, 44.

### SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)



You may make your influence felt, and your efforts to advance your career could be very effective. Taking on a leadership position might be favoured now. Lucky Numbers: 21, 24, 29, 31, 44, 49.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Music or art may move you very much now. Your imagination might be activated, and you could be inclined to feel rather passive and dreamy, or creatively inspired. Lucky Numbers: 2, 12, 13, 22, 23, 33.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



This may be a perfect time to socialize, as the positive feelings that you generate may be to your advantage. Your willingness to meet people halfway could benefit you, as well. Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 16, 22, 26, 40.

### AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)



A desire to share your good fortune and joy with others may be your theme. Beautifying your home or changing your physical appearance might appeal to you. Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 21, 35, 41, 42.

### PISCES

(Feb. 20 - March 20)



You may be craving emotional excitement, and your inhibitions might be loosened. It could be a time for music, dancing, and being joyfully spontaneous. Lucky Numbers: 12, 16, 32, 36, 42, 46.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Libra winners with the luckiest number being 8.

## Did You Know...

**Hearing feet:** African elephants have the unique ability to "hear" with their feet. Far-off rumbles in the ground create vibrations that travel from their feet to their middle ear. The timing of the signals can indicate the direction of the sound's origin.

**Chef's trick:** When we sprinkle salt on our food, we usually do it close to the target. Chefs sprinkle seasonings from a height of as much as 12 inches (30 cm). This results in much more even distribution.

**No rabbits:** In the state of Queensland, Australia, owning a rabbit is illegal. That's because the critters have become a severe ecological threat. The government erected a rabbit-proof fence and has taken other measures to keep the population under control.

**Alarm system:** Royals in ancient Japan were ahead of their time. They purposely built squeaky floors as an anti-theft alarm system. These "nightingale floors" or *uguisu-bari*, are named after the Japanese nightingale, also known as the Japanese bush warbler.

**Unique banking:** When visiting Vatican City in Rome, people can practice Latin while doing their banking. An ATM in Vatican City has an option to do transactions in Latin, possibly the only machine in the world to offer such a service.

## On the Lighter Side

What has two hands, a big round face, always runs but stays in place? A clock.

Carry a feather duster with you wherever you go. If you can't find someone to tickle, at least you'll be able to do their dusting.

Don't resent growing old—many are denied the privilege.

Fred: "How do you know that peanuts are fattening?"  
Ed: "Have you ever seen a skinny elephant?"

Improvising is a great adventure—a class act needs no cue cards.

## Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Cygnets 2. True 3. Soccer 4. The river 5. 9-10 ft.

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