



Desserts reignite that childlike delight in what's on the table
Heston Blumenthal

Gallery: heritage tomato varieties



Nick Wyke

Last updated August 17 2011 4:12PM

View our gallery of heritage and heirloom varieties of tomatoes grown in the UK

British tomatoes often come in for a lot of stick. And more often than not they deserve it. 'Watery', 'wooly' and 'tasteless' are just three of the recurring adjectives used to describe tomatoes commonly sold in supermarkets.

But the tomato has come a long way from its billiard ball days when it provided the sole company to a lettuce leaf in a salad crowned by a blob of salad cream. Inspired by farmers' markets in the US and Canada, today chefs and consumers expect more and new heritage and heirloom varieties are being cultivated across Britain.

Leading the way is Robert Hocking of [Butterville Farm](#) in South Cornwall and Jeff MacDonald of [Isle of Wight's Tomato Stall](#).

"Every year we trial more than a hundred new types in our glasshouses looking for that something special, a sweeter, tastier variety or an exciting new colour or shape," says Macdonald.

"This year we have several varieties of heritage tomatoes (sometimes referred to as heirloom). They come in different sizes, shapes and colours - red, orange, yellow, dark purple and green - and some are stripey. These have different flavours and characteristics depending on the type and are generally closer to the original variety as the name implies. They are great for adding some colour and excitement to your summer salads."

9 of 11

More varieties grown by Robert Hocking on Butterville Farm in South Cornwall - www.funkyleaves.co.uk
Robert Hocking

Post a comment

★ Recommend (0)

Print

Email

Share

Like

Follow stories about

Real Food

Food and Drink

Life

What's this ?

You say tomato



27 September 2008

17 August 2011

Read the full story

Tomato and spinach dahl

Swap the steak for spinach and the ham for halloumi - Alice Hart creates six dishes for the perfect cheapskate's...



Cherry tomato tart tatin

Swap the steak for spinach and the ham for halloumi - Alice Hart creates six dishes for the perfect cheapskate's...

Country Cottages

To find out more, [click here](#)

www.rentmycottage.com

Courgette blossom and tomato frittatas

Swap the steak for spinach and the ham for halloumi - Alice Hart creates six dishes for the perfect cheapskate's...



Cherry tomato and beetroot salad

Dinner tonight: Tomato and pesto sardines on toast

Raid the storecupboard for tinned sardines then give them a summery twist with pesto sauce and a chunky tomato...