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Oils, artichokes and pasta at Flavors From Afar (left); Pottery on display (below)
photos by Chris Fritchie



built a solid foundation for running their business. Five years ago, when a downturn in the communications industry spurred trips to Europe, the adventure was born. Mrs. Krabill returned home from Paris, France with a bottle of Oliviers & Co.

basil olive oil. That bottle opened the door to their dream of a gourmet food store and a new life chapter. At first, they wanted to bring food

from Asia and around the globe to Dallas, hence the name "Flavors From Afar." But the world is a pretty big place and over time, they narrowed in on specialty items from local, national and European sources.

Sourcing out new tastes and superior flavors, directly from the producers, is what makes the Krabills shine. They know a cook is only as good as her/his ingredients and that the hands of the growers matter even more. Their warmth and excitement is contagious when they talk about the people who make the incredible products on their shelves. Quality control comes easily and is one of the reasons behind Nancy and Gary Krabill's four-year success in the competitive retail food business. Their offerings feature "simple, finer things" for everyday and extend into easy, elegant ideas for entertaining.

Love All Things Italian

By Kathryn MacDonell

WHAT COULD BE BETTER than gourmet Italian in your own kitchen? Well, a personal chef in Tuscany would top it, but you can indulge your love for all things Italian without even leaving Dallas. With more than 50 specialty items on the shelves at Flavors From Afar in Snider Plaza, you'll rise above ordinary meat and potatoes fare.

"Italy is the grandmother country, accepting and adopting everyone," says

Nancy Krabill, owner of Flavor From Afar. It adopted her and husband, Gary, and has wide enough arms to welcome you. So, if you were lucky enough to be born Italian and want to get in touch with your motherland, or simply love sensational food, read on to experience the delights the Krabills and Flavors From Afar have to offer.

With 50 years combined experience in telecommunications, the Krabills



Specialty food items at Flavors From Afar

photo by Chris Fritchie

HOME PRODUCTS

There's an old-world feel when you walk through the doors of Flavors From Afar. The walls are lined with stunning ceramics (oven to tableware) painted by third generation artisans from Umbria and Sicily. There are fabulous handcrafted wood products by a local artisan, who makes a personal appearance every Monday. And, displayed tastefully are innovative boards and candle holders made from the staves of wine barrels. The red wine stains add to the beauty of the wood. The Krabills also stock must-have kitchen stuff - the latest in silicone and technology to make your culinary adventures fun.

GOURMET ITEMS

These aren't items you'd find at Whole Foods or Central Market. Products are chosen because they're made by a small producer who invests love in the item and you can taste it! Extraordinary flavors in olive oils, balsamic vinegars, artichokes (baby ones to those with legs), pasta (of course), pestos, tomatoes, honey

(blessed by bee whisperers), fig sausage and unique chocolate line the shelves. Nancy and Gary treat the producers like family members and watch them at work. The local items - meat, eggs and cheese also meet their high standards.

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"Where else can you 'try before you buy' and find one-of-a-kind items Nancy and Gary so carefully select. The attention to detail is practically unheard of in our fast-paced and fast-food world," says happy foodie Wendy Shelley.

If you really want to impress, send the ultimate gift basket filled with these sensational offerings.

TASTINGS

Gather together 10 of your foodie friends and come party. It's on the house. You'll be offered oils from France, Tuscany, Spain, Greece and Texas. Then you'll move on to balsamic vinegars ranging from three to 30 years old. And every taste has a story about the producer and what makes each selection unique. Who knew there could be such fine distinctions? Both oil and vinegar items come in a refillable bottle, which makes good sense for the planet.

Regular customer Ginnie Bivona raves, "Flavors From Afar has the absolute best balsamic anywhere. Add one of their wonderfully rich fruity olive oils decanted into pretty containers and you've got a gift of good taste for anyone, anytime."

Are you a red wine lover and tired of pouring leftover half-filled bottles down the kitchen drain? Wouldn't you rather drink it? Flavors From Afar has the perfect solution: The Wine Clip. The clip goes on the neck of the bottle and the magnets break down the tannin molecules and makes the wine less acidic.



*Hand-crafted wood products
photo by Chris Fritchie*

SMU professor, who will guide your learning. The wine and snacks enhance your confidence and make it all the more fun. Bene. Bene.

TRAVEL TO ITALY

Nancy and Gary have the inside track on cool field trips to one of the most delicious places in the world. Last year, they took four groups to Tuscany. This isn't your museum variety tour: it's a behind-the-scenes trip to visit olive producers, wine vendors and local artisans. The group ate meals prepared especially for them and schmoozed with the locals. This year, they welcome you to join them on week long trips to Tuscany and ten-day explorations of Sicily.

GREEN LAUNCH

Spend some time at Flavors From Afar on Green Saturday May 24, from 10 to 6 p.m. The Krabills will offer the latest in environmentally sound kitchen products – bamboo cutting boards and dish

towels. These are among some of the healthy living products they discovered at the last food show and are unveiling for customers. It feels good to shop at a store where the owners are informed and environmentally savvy about the choices they offer.

"The owners are friendly and always have time for conversation, advice, recipes and showing off new products we never knew we needed!" asserts customer Joyce Hobbs.

Nancy and Gary invest in their customers. They understand about busy lives and make it easy for you to shop. You can view products on their website, order on-line and they'll even provide curbside service if you're in a rush!

If you want unparalleled personal service, notable culinary happenings and the expertise of well-travelled owners dedicated to sourcing exceptional products, look no more. You've found it - Flavors From Afar – a store like no other.

Kathryn MacDonell is a freelance writer living in Dallas.

Come for a "before-and-after" test and judge for yourself.

ITALIAN LESSONS

So you want to learn the language of love? You may want to sign-up for a four-week session with Sandra Haas, a retired