

KITCHENWARE NEWS

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Preview Hints at IH+HS Product Introductions

By Karen D. Martin

New colors, environmental awareness, and clever design could be found in the products on view at the 2008 International Home + Housewares Show (IH+HS) sneak preview for the media, which took place in New York City on January 8, 2008. Nearly 70 companies participated in the preview. More than 2,100 exhibitors are expected to greet retail buyers at the IH+HS on Sunday March 16 — 18, 2008 at McCormick Place in Chicago.

For color, you couldn't miss Le Creuset's introduction of their new Dijon color. Le Creuset called their new, eye-catching color a "vibrant, sophisticated yellow." Color also was front and center with Le Creuset's new porcelain enameled stoneware Wok dish.

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Swissmar Celebrates 25 Year Anniversary

By Jenna Lane

How does a Swiss exchange student learning the ways of a 5,000-acre Canadian farm turn into the president of four housewares companies? In Daniel Oehy's case, it took whipped cream, fondue, and 25 years.

In the beginning

The Canadian Midwest, 1983: The operation that would become Swissmar began with Oehy's friends coming over to his bachelor pad, admiring his whipped cream dispenser and asking, "Can you get me this? It's amazing."

Oehy was not pursuing culinary arts or even business, but crops and livestock. He was an agricultural engineering student in what he describes as "very much a meat-and-potato kind of country," with few of the quality housewares he was used to having at home in Switzerland. He wrote a letter to the compa