

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SAN FRANCISCO, SEPTEMBER 2006

Charles and Marie's "Soupe Du Jour" Serves Up Designer Surprises for the Holiday Season curated by Josée Lepage and Tobias Wong.

Love shopping? And surprises? Charles and Marie's popular retail format Soupe Du Jour is offering online shoppers their own "Secret Santa" service for the holidays.

If you pre-order October 1st through November 15th, Charles and Marie will send a beautifully wrapped surprise to your home each day until Christmas, beginning December 1st and ending with a bang on Christmas Eve.

Curated by design wunderkind Tobias Wong (Wallpaper* Magazine's Young Designer of the year 2005 and conceptual director for Prada's epi center flagship store in SoHo) and José e Lepage, the influential Canadian curator for concept stores around the world, the concept is a nod to traditional holiday calendars—the ones that countdown to Christmas by unearthing a piece of chocolate behind a new door each day. But instead of opening a cardboard door, you'll be opening your front door and receiving a gift every day of the week via courier. (Because DHL does not deliver on the weekend, your Saturday and Sunday surprises will be delivered on Friday.)

In the grand tradition of Charles and Marie, the website deemed one of today's top "messengers of cool" by Time magazine, these gifts will be a curated selection of unisex and "unisex" luxury goods from established and up-and-coming designers from all over the world. Many of the items will not be available with any other offer or via any other retailer.

Charles and Marie's new holiday concept is quite different from Soupe Du Jour's usual format, which, like the name suggests, serves up a different designer ware every day. The products in the Christmas calendar will not be available in the 'normal' Soupe Du Jour offering and are limited to this special pre-order package only.

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About Charles & Marie:

Since its 2005 launch, CharlesandMarie.com has been praised by Time magazine as one of a select group of trendspotting “ messengers of cool.” The company is the brainchild of Charles and Marie, an elusive couple whose extensive travels have made them experts on “ who’ s who” and “ what’ s hot” around the globe. Their site guides users off the beaten path and into a colorful world of fascinating products, unique boutiques, chic clubs, epicurean delights and more. It’ s the crè me de la crè me of the blogosphere.

CharlesandMarie.com features a thoughtfully curated array of “ assuringly delectable” products, from San Francisco to Shanghai, that appeal to discriminating shoppers. The selection is presented with three purchasing methods. Soupe De Jour features daily products that go on sale for 24 hours or until they’ re sold out. The curated shopping section offers a unique selection of luxury fashion, gadgets and more. Bazaar (coming soon) will be a platform for designers from all over to sell their products to customers across the globe.

In addition to shopping, the site offers comprehensive city guides and the latest reports on up-and-coming fashion, gadgets, destinations and décor in their specific markets. While other weblogs rely on word-of-mouth, CharlesandMarie.com has a team of international trend correspondents who are out and about experiencing featured items first hand. Blogs are written by reporters based in Tokyo, San Francisco, New York, Stockholm, Paris, London and Frankfurt and updated daily. Imparting the highest of standards, C&M caters to the insatiably hip while offering editorial content that is entertaining and informative.

CEOs Claus Krogmann, 40, and Marcus Greinke, 39, currently direct the sites. Krogmann, who resides near Frankfurt, brings with him a background in marketing and sales of high-end furniture and home accessories. Most recently, he was CEO for Vitra in Germany. Greinke, based just south of San Francisco, worked as CEO of Consumer Branding for Enterprise IG in the US. He has developed new products and brands for some of the world’ s most highly regarded corporate and consumer companies.