Creative FLAVOURS ireland

ICE CREAM TRENDS

# FLAVOUR FOCUS: ICE 

Naturalness is emerging as a KEY THEME IN FLAVOUR TRENDS

FOR ICE CREAM

1. CLASSICS ARE COMFORTING: CHOC \& VANILLA FAVOURITES, NEED MODERN TWIST

## 2. EXPERIMENT TO EXCITE:

CONSUMERS, PARTICULARLY YOUNG WANT NEW FLAVOUR EXPERIENCE, FOR PLEASURE AND TO SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.
3. GO NATURAL FOR PERMISSIBILITY: DESIRE FOR SWEET TREATS G INTENTION TO EAT HEALTHY, WANT TREATS THAT APPEAR NATURAL AND WHOLESOME \& USE NATURAL FLAVOURS


## INSTA EFFECT

- Ice cream featured heavily on social media
- 63\% US millennials enjoy snapping food
- Image and aesthetics are everything in food!
- Artfulconstruction, eyecatching colours, and over-the-top indulgence



## INTERNET SENSATIONS

- Freakshakes have gone viral on the internet.
- Purple ube, or sweet potato, is a trending flavour in ice cream
- Pantone naming Ultra Violet the colour of the year for 2018


Leading flavours
DOMINATED BY CHOCOLATE, VANILLA AND STRAWBERRY

## CLASSIC FLAVOURS ARE

 DECLINING

## FLAVOUR TRENDS IN ICE CREAM

Global: top 10 flavours ice cream tubs, 2017



LEND BOTH A HEALTH HALO AND SERVE TO TEMPER SWEETNESS.

## CONSUMER WANT THE OLD G NEW

CONSUMERS ARE NOT CONFLICTED ABOUT WANTING EITHER CLASSICS OR NEW FLAVOURS, they WANT both, and like to have the choice.

45\% OF US CONSUMERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ICE-CREAM FEATURING FLAVOURS FROM INTERNATIONAL - CUISINES


76\% OF ITALIAN CONSUMERS SAY THEY LIKE FLAVOURS THAT REMIND THEM OF THEIR PAST, EG CHILDHOOD, tRADITIONS

# EmERGING ICE CREAM FLAVOURS OFFER TEXTURE, COLOUR AND TEMPER SWEFTNFSS 

Global: emerging, high growth ice cream flavours, \% change in launches, 2015-17 - Rocky Road

- Saffron
- Lemon Meringue
- Apricot
- Ube/Purple Yam
- Elderberry/flower
- Lucuma/Eggfruit

983\%
$1000 \%$
$800 \%$
800\%
$600 \%$
$400 \%$ 400\% 200\%

\% change 2015-17

TRENDING FLAVOURS $=$ EXOTIC, PLANT-BASED \& COLOURFUL, FROM VIVID GOLD OF SAFFRON to Vibrant purples of ube q blackcurrant.

NEAPOLITAN = AN ENDURING FAVOURITE, WHILE ROCKY ROAD IS COMING BACK DUE TO INTEREST IN MULTI-TEXTURAL FOOD.

## Elderberry q elderflower benefiting from small

 gROUNDSWELL OF INNOVATION AROUND FLORAL FLAVOURS.OCCURING IN SMALL NUMBERS BUT COULD PROVE INFLUENTIAL DUE TO LIMITED EDITION HäAGEN-DAZS’ 2017 FLOWERS COLLECTION. IT FEATURES 2 FLAVOURS: ROSE,

RASPBERRY \& LYCHEE, AND ELDERFLOWER \&
BLACKCURRANT.

## ADDING COMPLEXITY: FLAVOUR ACCENTS

## TOASTED/ ROASTED/ SMOKY NOTES

- USE OF TOASTED, ROASTED OR SMOKY descriptors in ice CREAM INCREASED BY 207\% 2015-2017. SUCH descriptors not only SOUND MORE ENTICING, THEY ADD COMPLEXITY OF FLAVOUR WITHOUT ADDING SWEETNESS. Eg DARK CHOCOLATE SMOKED SEA SALT.


## SALTY, SPICY OR

 SOUR- SoUR ICE CREAM FLAVOURS INCREASED BY $117 \%$ 2015-2017. ALONG WITH SOUR FLAVOURS, SALT AND SPICINESS CAN ACCENTUATE AND BALANCE SWEETNESS. Eg LIME, LIQUORICE AND CHILLI.




## BALANCING SWEET WITH SAVOURY

- Savoury flavours in ICE CREAM GREW BY 306\% BETWEEN 2015 AND 2017 WHILST VEGETABLE FLAVOURS GREW BY 86\%. THESE FLAVOURS ARE generally paired with a sweet flavour. Eg SWEET POTATO WITH TORCHED MARSHMALLOW.



# IN US FOODSERVICE, DESSERT FLAVOURS GET MORE SOPHISTICATED 

ONLY 2 OF TOP 15 DESSERT GENERAL FLAVORS INCREASED IN MENU INCIDENCE: VANILLA BEAN AND ORANGE.

BECOMING TRENDIER TO CALL OUT THE ORANGE TYPE, INCREASE IN BLOOD ORANGE, ORANGE BLOSSOM ETC. MENTIONS = GREATER SOPHISTICATION IN FLAVOURS BEING OFFERED.

LESSER USED FLAVOURS ARE NOW INCREASING = MORE DESSERT MENUS USE MAPLE FOR FLAVORING

TRADITIONAL FAVOURITES DECLINING - CHOCOLATE REMAINS THE LEADING DESSERT BUT MENU MENTIONS DECREASED 3\% 2015-2017.

SUB GROUPS OF CHOCOLATE DOWN E.G. FUDGE AND WHITE CHOCOLATE

## VANILLA BEAN

Plain vanilla is the 2nd leading dessert flavor, the real vanilla story is the rise of vanilla bean ( $+9 \%$ ) between Q3 2015-Q3 2017. It conjures pictures of the vanilla plant - a whole ingredient - which is what consumers clamor for these days.

## BERRY FLAVOUR

Berry flavor overall is down $10 \%$ on the dessert menu, though it is still ranked no. 3 in flavor incidence. Strawberry and raspberry are

## 1 <br> 0\%

 the top-menued berry flavors, though both declined. Meanwhile, blueberry incidence was up - perhaps for its superfruit status..
## CARAMEL

$-33 \%$
As the 10th leading dessert flavor, the menu incidence of caramel was down $33 \%$ in the past two years. However,
caramel is not to be discounted. Salted caramel sauce as a dessert ingredient is trending up.

## CHOCOLATE REIGNS SUPREME IN EUROPE

Flavours in Europe have a tendency towards the conservative, with chocolate dominating. Chocolate-flavoured launches account for a higher proportion in Europe than other regions. In North America they account for 31\%, Latin America 27\% and in the Asia Pacific just 26\%.

The flavour accounted for $37 \%$ of all sweet bakery and dessert flavours launched over 2017. whilst a further $8 \%$ were cocoa or cacao flavoured. Plain, butter and vanilla account for a further $22 \%$ of product launches.


Mintel, 2018

## LOOKINE TO THE FUTURE

CONSUMERS WILL ALWAYS HAVE A SWEET TOOTH BUT EVOLVING TO Want less sweet, more nuanced flavours. Balance out sweet WITH COUNTER BALANCE E.G. SALT, ACID (CItruS OR BALSAMIC) OR A SAVOURY NOTE (NUTS, MATCHA, PANDAN).


PLANT bASED DIETS GROWING WITH NO SIGN OF SLOWING.
CONSUMERS ARE EMBRACING, FLAVOURS SUCH AS UBE.
EXPECT TO SEE MORE USE OF MILD VEGETABLES SUCH AS AVOCADO, SWEET POTATO, PUMPKIN AND CORN.

## SUMMARY



THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND A CONSUMER PERCEPTION THAT SIMPLE, NATURAL INGREDIENTS MAKE INDULGENT PRODUCTS MORE PERMISSIBLE ARE STRONG THEMES GLOBALLY.

WHILE CREATIONS TRENDING ON SOCHAL MEDIA CAN OFTEN BE ANYTHING BUT HEALTHY, IT IS ND COINCIDENCE THAT ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR FLAVOURS ON INSTAGRAM IN RECENT YEARS, THE VIBRANTLY HUED UBE, IS A VEGETABLE.

CONTACT US:

