# Splash of vinegar can add zest

e related story on Taste front MIXED HERB VINEGAR

4 cups white wine vinegar or

cider vinegar
I five inch fresh sprig of
thyme, free of blemishes
I five inch fresh sprig of tarra-

gon 3 peeled garlic claves 3 allspice berries 3 black peppercorns 42 small bay leaf

Place herbs in a French canning jar fitted with a spring top lid. Cov-er with vinegar. Allow to set un kitchen counter for 5 days. Swirl mixture every few days. When de-sired flavor is achieved, pour into sterilized bottles with spring top lids. Store on cool dark shelf.

#### BERRY VINEGAR

4 cups distilled white or white wine vinegar 1 cup ripe fresh unblemished or frozen strawberries, raspberries, blockberries, blockberries, blockberries

blackbernes, chemes, blackraspbernes or goose-

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In a non-corrosive saucepan mix together berries and vinegar. Heat mixture until it simmers. Add sugar if desired, stirring until dissolved. Pour mixture into a sterilized glass Jar. Cool to room temperature, then cover with plasic wray then the lid. Allow mixture to steep 3 to 5 days at room temperature. Pour lito n metal strainer or funnel with a pare coffee fifter. Discard fruit, Pour vinegar into a sterilized glass hot-ties fitted with a pring-stouper top. tles fitted with a spring-stopper top. Store vinegar in a cool dark place.

#### INSALATA DI MOZZARELLA

4 red peopers, quartered,

cored, seeded, roosted 34 lb, fresh mozzarella or fonti-na cheese cut into slices 1/2 inche thick

small head bibb lettuce

small head bibb lettuce Vinalgestle:
 Tablespoons light French or Italian Olive oil 2 Tablespoons basil flavored wine vinegar
 19 Tablespoons fresh, snipped basil leaves
 1 teaspoon anchow paste, or to taste

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salt, if desired

Mix vinnigrette in jar or blender and refrigerate until serving. Ar-range leaves of lettuce on individual salad plates. Alternate pepper slices

pour over each salad at serving. Garnish with Italian paraley leaves and black olives.

# Use these hints to try easy flavored vinegars

Here are some helpful tips about making flavared vinegars from Diane Schrift and Shirley Siegel.

When asked about using champone vinegar as a base, Schrift answered "people get contric about three. Unless you're trasting these straight or in a simple vinelgretty you can't tell the difference.

Schrift recommends mixing beries with vinegar in a sucepan until the inituture simmers. Remove mixture and pour into sterilized jars. Cover and allow to sit for three to five days on the kitchen counter before filtering through a paper coffee filter and packing into sterilized glass buttles.

Two of Siegel's favorite flavar combinations are strawberries, cinnamon atick and lemon zest to bused in salads, and a versatile taragon vinegar flavared with dreid chili pepper, peeded garlle cloves and a few black peppercorns.

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Slegel suggests mixing the berry vinegars with mayonnaise or sour cream when making fruit salads or using the heth/nepper vinegars in vinalgrettee or for marinading meats bfore grilling.

Schilf and Slegel avoid storing their homemade vinegars in bottles with cork tops. They prefer those with wire spring tops ors simply under canning Jars.

Hyou'd like to sample a few commercial flavored vinegars before experimenting on your own, the Rothschild Berry Farm flavored vinegars are highly recommended. Located in Urbana, Ohio, they began producing vinegars in 1985. Their vinegars are made in small batches, all by hand with a white wine vinegar sare made in small batches, all by hand with a white wine vinegar are made of the mixing wine and the wine of vine in Birmingham. Southfeld and Troy, and at Keith Famic's Les Saisons in Royal Oak.

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# Enjoy ripe melons while you still can

See Larry Janes' column on Taste front.
WATERMELON RIND CHUTNEY

3 quarts chopped, pared white watermelon rind

2 tablespoons non-lodized 3 cups cared, chopped bak-

ing apples
2 cups chopped onlons
2 Tablespoons non-lodized

1 quart white vineger 2 tablespoons mustard

I quart winto vinegar

Quart vinito vinegar

Seed

Seed

Seed

Selection of the vinitar

Sounces golden raisins

Cup sugar

1 (5-oz.) Jar preserved

ginger, chopped

I lemon, sliced

Y cup Ismon julice

Y cup Ismon julice

T tesspoons ciringmon

Lesspoons ground

allspice

alispice I teaspoon cayenne pepper

Heat rind and 2 tablespoons salt in water to cover in a large kettle. Heat to boiling, reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes.

heat and simmer 10 minutes.
Drain.
Combine rind, apples, onions,
2 tablespoons salt and vinegar in
a large beat. Let stand at room
temperature for three hours.
drain, reserve rind mixture and
liquid separately.
Crush mustard and colery
seeds and garlic cloves. Heat reserved vinegar, crushed herb
mixture and remaining ingredients except rind mixture in large
kettle over medium heat, stirring
frequently. Stir in reserved rind

mixture, simmer stirring occasionally until syrup thickens, about one hour. Taste and adjust seasonings. Let stand at room temp overnight. Heat mixture to boiling, follow canning procedures and leave ¼ inch headspace in Jars. Process in a boiling water bath for 10 minutes. Makes about five pints

MELON AND ORANGE SALAD 3 quarts honeydow melon

balls ¼ cup orange julce ¼ cup orange flavored li-

queur 2 Tablespoons sugar 2 teaspoons fresh grated orange peel

frosh mint sprigs

Combine all ingredients ex-cept berries and mint in serving bowl and toss gently. Refrigerate covered for about 4 hours. Garn-ish with berries and fresh mint.

### WINTERMELON AND HAM SOUP

2 nounds wintermelon. seeds removed, pared 6 cups chicken broth

I cup fresh chopped coun-try style ham fresh ground white pepper

fesh ground white pepper Heat melon silces in water to cover in uncovered kettle to boll-ing. Reduce heat, simmer melon for 15 minutes. Drain, rines with cold water, silce melon into juli-ment strips. Heat chicken broth, ham and melon in kettle just un-til hot. Do not boil. Sprinkle with fresh ground white pepper.

#### Ice cream, mint top strawberries

AP — Here's an elegant summer dessert that takes only five ingred-ients — and just minutes to pre-

BURGUNDY STRAWBERRIES

4 ounces Burgundy wine 3 tablespoons sugar 10 chapped mint leaves 1 pint strawberries, cut in piec-

I quart chocolate fudge ice

In medium bowl, mix wine and sugar. Add mint leaves, then pour over strawberries. Let marinate 3 hours, Serve strawberries in four in-dividual shellow bowls; top with chocolate fudge ice cream. Makes 4



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