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## Fancy Food Show 2009

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I have a sneaking suspicion that the 34th annual **Fancy Food Show** is trying to tell me what to eat. If they have anything to do with food trends, we're all going to be munching on gourmet chocolate, fancy bottled water, and loads of tea in the coming year.

With over 1,500 exhibitors from over 35 countries, the mega food show concluded its three day invasion of **San Francisco's Moscone Center** on Tuesday. Sure, the economy is in the tanks these days, but people still have to eat! Specialty foods have found their place in the American pocketbook by offering consumers small, and immediately satisfying ways to indulge.

Many foreign countries banded together to create super booths from Italy, France, Australia, Chile, and Canada. Leave it to the Italians to place a giant flat screen TV playing a heated soccer game in their section. I'm not sure if it was the wine or the football, but the *Italian section* seemed like the place to be!



With more than 50,000 products on display, the Fancy Food Show is more than just a little overwhelming. Here are some of my favorite finds from my day amongst the foodies. More tomorrow!



The *Tea Room's* tea infused chocolates were pretty wild. With flavors like White Chocolate infused with Chamomile Tea and Honey or Milk Chocolate infused with Masala Chai Tea, how could I not stop by for a sample? My favorite was the Milk Chocolate infused with Jasmine tea. The chocolate was super creamy and the jasmine was just enough to sneak up and scare you as you swallowed the chocolate. It's looks like they're gotten some new packaging since their website photos.



*Rishi Tea* is pretty. In my book, half of the fun of making tea is enjoying the beauty of the tea leaf as I put it in the pot. Rishi Tea seems to be designed for people who really enjoy beauty and flavor in tea. They're also fair trade and organic. The most lovely tea I tried was the Tropical Crimson Oranic Iced Tea.



*Hint Water* is pretty clever. Instead of those fancy flavored waters that are packed with sugar, Hint Water somehow takes the essence of a fruit of veggie, infusing it into the water. My favorite was the cucumber water that was super light and refreshing and magically tasted of fresh cucumber. Do I really need my water to taste like anything but water? Hint Water seems to be for those that just can't bear to drink a glass of regular old water.