

# New & Notable

Products, stores and ideas you're sure to love



## 1 LET'S GET FRESH!

Local foodies have a new source for premium cooking oils and vinegars: Con'Olio's selection of olive oil and balsamic vinegars brings a world-view of fresh ways to cook to Central Texas, and classes, private tastings, a tasting bar and recipes make this an enthusiast's dream destination. Jeff and Tabatha Conarko opened the store after enjoying exotic varieties of olive oil while traveling in California, the Mediterranean countries and elsewhere; they decided to bring some back home to Texas. The oils and other foods come in a variety of flavors including chipotle, chocolate and fig. 10000 Research Blvd., Ste. 130, 342-2344; conolios.com. —Joanna Ebizie

## 2 A LITTLE PICK-ME-UP

Austinites love the work of San Antonio-born artist Allison Gregory, whose 10-foot-tall guitar stood in front of the Frost Bank Tower at 401 Congress Ave. until the piece was auctioned off in 2007. But not all of the artist's pieces are taller than you are: Gregory's My Little Darlings line of espresso cups and saucers are eye-opening, even before you fill them with coffee (\$27, through the German tableware design firm Ritzenhoff). If you're interested in imbibing something more intoxicating, check out Gregory's pilsner (\$44) and schnapps glasses (\$20), also available from Ritzenhoff. [allisongregoryfineart.com](http://allisongregoryfineart.com) (click on the Ritzenhoff link).

## 3 ALL SPRUCED UP

Where to get your old sofas and chairs reupholstered is one of those domestic hurdles that can seem insurmountable. That is, until Spruce came along. The furniture redesign store breathed new life into an old industry, and just at the right time. Repurposing castoff furniture is the goal of the Sprucettes, the dedicated staff at the 1,850-square-foot store and fabric library. Now Spruce has added home items to the mix. You'll find Voluspa candles, moss terrariums, Skinny Laminx tea towels, Elum stationery, vintage wood tableware and lamps, Kitchens'n Glam aprons and lavender scent jars by Austinite Gina Waterfield. 6607 N. Lamar Blvd., 454-8181; [spruceaustin.com](http://spruceaustin.com).

## 4 WHAT'S NEW UNDER THE SUN

When Big Red Sun opened in Austin in 1994, its bold and over-the-top approach to gardening took the city by storm. Founder Selena Souders expanded the landscaping business to Los Angeles and has now joined Austin art collector and designer Julie Thornton in refocusing their Austin efforts on a design aesthetic that mixes historical ideas with contemporary uses. "We are interested in returning to a type of garden-making that was prevalent in the early 20th century," says Thornton, "but is still relevant for our current way of life." BRS will also have offices in New York. 480-0688; [bigredsun.com](http://bigredsun.com). —Joanna Ebizie

PHOTOS COURTESY: ALLISON GREGORY; CON OLIO'S; SPRUCE; BIG RED SUN.