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Picky Eater: Awash in pink

By Jolene Thym
Oakland Tribune

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YOU MIGHT THINK you're looking through rose-colored glasses this month, as everything seems to be awash in pink. There are pink cakes, pink teas, pink candies, pink plates, pink wines, and of course pink lids. As retailers everywhere jump into the breast cancer awareness campaign, consumers like us can put our dollars to work all month long.

Since it's impossible to tell you about all of the great pink products this month, I'll mention just a few that I intend to grab.

START PINK: For breakfast, I'll head to Panera bakery for a Pink Bagel in the shape of a ribbon (89 cents). The bagel isn't pink per se, but is dotted with dried cherries and cranberries. Since I am a coffee drinker, I need to have Pink Tic Tacs in my purse (79 cents).

PINK FAST: Since my days are full and I'm not sure I'll have time for a real lunch, I'm going to grab a Think Thin Pink Bar (\$1.69) that's packed with 20 grams of protein. The bars, made here in the Bay Area, can be found at most health food stores.

I'll also tuck away a Yoplait Light (80 cents), which is a little sweet, but I can grab the pink lid off the top and send it to the company to generate a donation to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. I've always wondered why I have to send them lids — are there really people who open the envelopes and count them? — but I have to give credit to Yoplait for

donating \$19 million to the cause to date. This year's goal is \$1.5 million. For every lid saved and mailed in through Dec. 31, Yoplait will donate 10 cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

I'll chase my snacks with a cup of Pink Grapefruit Decaf Green Tea from Republic of Tea (\$10.50), one of the smoothest green teas you'll find anywhere. Republic of Tea can be found at Cost Plus stores.

DRINK PINK: I'm not sure what I'll have for dinner, but I know it will include some Hope Chardonnay, a \$19 wine that gives back 50 percent to breast cancer charities. What's especially nice about Hope Wine is that it is not \$9 wine being sold for \$19. It's \$19 wine that gives back. The company explained that it picked the Chardonnay varietal to benefit breast cancer because women drink twice as much Chardonnay as men. That makes sense, but I have to tell you that the Merlot to benefit AIDS and Cabernet to benefit autism are terrific; expertly made, rich, full and fruity. The wines can be found at liquor stores throughout the area, or online at www.hopewine.com.

Along with the wine, I'll have a chunk of crusty bread smeared with butter from my pretty Pink Butter Bell Crock (\$25), a ceramic container that can be filled with any kind of spread. The crocks can be found at assorted kitchen stores, including Domus in Pleasanton, Chef Stop in San Carlos, and Whole Foods in Cupertino. If you can't get to those stores, you can find it online at www.butterbell.com.

After dinner, I'll sneak a little pink — a few not-at-all-good-for-me Pink York Peppermint Patties (\$2.69). At least they're dipped in dark chocolate. And I promise to brush my teeth.

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