



Nine good books for New Year reading

William Hague on William Pitt: Clarissa Dickson Wright and Johnny Scott on game cooking; Stephen Armitage-Green on chickens; Hugh Johnson on himself; and Mr and Mrs Smith on everywhere

Wine: A Life Uncorked

By Hugh Johnson
Weidenfeld & Nicolson (London)
Hardback, 384pp
Hugh Johnson has a fine reputation



as a passionate admirer of wine, and one of its best communicators. His autobiography is beautifully written, flowing like an unassuming vintage from one topic to another on a pleasurable and informative journey. He thinks of wines as friends, old and new. For all who love wine, this enjoyable book will itself become a much loved old friend. Code HJ01 OP02. RRP £20. CCUK £15.50.



Extraordinary Chickens and Extra Extraordinary Chickens
By Stephen Green-Armitage
Abrams (London and New York)
Hardback, 112pp, full-colour
Stephen Green-Armitage has produced two inspired books on poultry, *Extraordinary Chickens* and *Extra Extraordinary Chickens*. He covers almost every breed and feather pattern imaginable, his subjects all posing happily, prettily and often humorously for the camera. They are all here, from Wyandottes to Silver-spangled Hamburgs, Cochins and Cuckoo Brahams, and of course Old English Game. Together these books make excellent additions to the coffee-table, and superb gifts. Code EC01 AB01. RRP £28.90. CCUK £25.35.

William Pitt the Younger

By William Hague
HarperCollins (London)
Hardback, 600pp
William Hague's acclaimed biography is a fascinating, straightforward account of a man of unusual integrity, independence and skill who, 'so aligned his life with the fate of his country that at no moment of his ex-



istence could he separate himself from it.' Hague provides a fresh perspective to the tumultuous period when Pitt was in office (with light-hearted snippets on Marie Antoinette, and King George III shaking hands with a tree in the belief that it was the King of Prussia). The story benefits from being told by a fellow youthful Minister, now poised to return to the political fray. Code WP 01 HC02. RRP £25. CCUK £22.50.



This Little Piggy Went to Prada
By Amy Allen and Eun-Kyung Kang
Spy Publishing (London)
Hardback, 72pp, illustrated
This season's must-have tome—*This Little Piggy Went to Prada*—is gorgeously illustrated and packed with 21 name-dropping nursery rhymes for the Nahuatl brigade. It is politically incorrect (hurray!), utterly frivolous, and loads of fun. Gems include 'Punycat, pussycat, where have you been? I have been to London to visit

McQueen', and a new take on Pat-a-Cake involving 'pop-a-cork' Champagne. This *This Little Piggy* will keep Mother Christmas chortling on Christmas Eve—but hurry, or it will be handbags at dawn! Code PP01 SP03. RRP £14.45. CCUK £11.50.

The Game Cookbook

By Clarissa Dickson Wright and Johnny Scott
Kyle Cathie (London)

Hardback, 206pp, illustrated
This landmark cookbook is so passionate country food that it is more than a book. It is a celebration. Clarissa Dickson Wright's kind and reassuring guidance on how to produce a wide range of dishes is con-

Gaule have only one fear: that the sky may fall on their heads tomorrow. But tomorrow never comes, says Chief Vitalstatistix. Or does it? Perhaps it has come at last for Asterix, Obelix and the other villagers. This new Asterix story is an hilarious tale of misunderstandings that will be loved by his millions of fans, young and old. Star stocking-filler. P801 OP02. RRP £9.99. CCUK £8.

Mr & Mrs Smith Hotel Collection: UK/Ireland

Spy Publishing (London)
Softcover, 297pp, full-colour
When you travel, you don't forget to pack the essentials. You immediately realise that you need an annual travel guide to help you with the routine of it in order to make the most of your holiday. Why advise you to visit some of the most stylish hotels in the UK and Ireland by the likes

THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO PRADA

vined with anecdotes and information from Johnny Scott about the history and habitat of game. Mouth-watering recipes such as Quail Thosalia, Potted Grosbeak, and the more exotic Caribou Pot Roast are illustrated with stunning photographs, paintings and cartoons. Code KS01 KC03. RRP £9.99. CCUK £8.



Asterix and the Falling Sky

By Albert Uderzo
Orion (London)
Hardback, 48pp, full-colour
The first new Asterix story in four years has been cap-

lured. The new card game, *Mr & Mrs Smith Hotel Collection*, is a fun and easy-to-play card game that includes the best of the best hotels in the UK and Ireland. Code M501 SP03. RRP £18.75.

Mr & Mrs Smith Hotel Collection: France

Orion (London)
Softcover, 297pp, full-colour
When you travel, you don't forget to pack the essentials. You immediately realise that you need an annual travel guide to help you with the routine of it in order to make the most of your holiday. Why advise you to visit some of the most stylish hotels in the UK and Ireland by the likes of Paris, Venice and Rome. It's a good, practical advice, interspersed with light-hearted translations of surprising phrases including, 'No, I have not stolen your dressing gown', and, 'Please will you call off your violin player.' Great fun. Code M502 SP03. RRP £8.45. CCUK £2.76.



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