

## BOUGHT LAMPE BERGER



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**T**his is the only Bought I have ever revisited, and I do so with good reason.

The last time I wrote about the beautiful and ingenious device known as the Lampe Berger, I, various editors and the Belle de Provence store in Bayview Village in Toronto were deluged

calls. "Where can I buy one in Saskatoon?" they asked. "How long do I keep it burning?" "I'm out of oil."

"If you accidentally leave your Lampe Berger burning all night because you drank too much at dinner, will it explode?" (No.)

As a matter of principle, I am kind to readers. But this is the last time I'm going to tell you about this. The Lampe Berger is an 1898 French invention. It burns oil very slowly by means of a catalytic converter (no flame) that is said to destroy not just bacteria, but cooking odours. It is therefore ideal for the home, and for people who enjoy their dinner and then spend the

next week feeling like they live in Alf's Steak and Kidney Pad Parlour.

I hate cooking smells. It's my neurosis, born of dining at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse once. Yes, I could open the windows. But climate change has brought an infestation of tiny airborne asarna bugs. (You may want to go to my local saviour, Vacuum Chek in the Beaches in Toronto, and buy a silent Panasonic air cleaner with charcoal filter for extreme cases like this.)

The lamps themselves are beautiful little things, available in 150 models. This one costs \$110, but you can get them for much less or much more. The real expense is the oil. One litre of the scented stuff costs \$40, so I buy the cheaper neutral oil and mix the two.

I prefer floral fragrances because I don't see how you can kill food odours with green apple oil. Green apples are food. For me, Atlantic rice and wild peony are just the thing.

At the moment, very few stores in Canada sell Lampe Berger. For information, go to [www.lampeberger.fr](http://www.lampeberger.fr) or call the Canadian head office at 514-344-0563 or e-mail [lampebergercanada@lampeberger.com](mailto:lampebergercanada@lampeberger.com). I cannot think of a more successful gift.

