

China ends ban on smelly cheese

25th October, 2017



China has reversed an import ban on several types of cheese that get their flavor (and distinctive smell) from bacteria. Chinese health officials placed a ban on the cheeses in September after

authorities discovered that the bacteria used to make the cheeses were not officially approved by the health department. The cheeses now approved for sale in China include Brie, Camembert, Roquefort and Stilton. The ban was lifted following meetings between representatives from the European Commission and Chinese quarantine and health officials. China's National Health and Family Planning Commission stated that the bacteria used for the production of these cheeses were not harmful to consumers' health.

Cheese lovers in China were very happy that they can once again enjoy eating their favourite dairy product. Cheese is becoming increasingly popular in China. Dairy products are not a typical part of the Chinese diet but tastes are changing as more western food is influencing Chinese tastes. More Chinese people have acquired a taste for cheese because of the influx of pizza restaurants that have opened in recent years. Vincent Marion, a leading cheese importer based in Shanghai, said: "It's a real relief. It is now written in black and white that this category of cheese is legally importable." Cheese sales in China will be worth \$820 million this year. This is an increase of nearly 25 per cent from last year.

Sources: channel.newsasia.com / independent.co.uk / bbc.com

Writing

Everyone should eat more cheese. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

import ban / flavor / smell / bacteria / health department / representatives / planning / happy / dairy product / typical / tastes / pizza / relief / recent years / category / sales

True / False

- a) China reversed an import ban on all of the world's cheeses. T / F
- b) China started its ban against cheese 15 years ago. T / F
- c) China removed the ban after talks with American cheese makers. T / F
- d) China's health authority said bacteria in the cheeses weren't harmful. T / F
- e) More and more Chinese people are starting to eat cheese. T / F
- f) A rise in pizza restaurants has led to Chinese people liking cheese more. T / F
- g) A cheese importer will soon start importing black and white cheese. T / F
- h) Cheese sales in China increased by 25 per cent in the past year. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. reversed | a. adopted |
| 2. distinctive | b. announced |
| 3. approved | c. damaging |
| 4. stated | d. overturned |
| 5. harmful | e. rise |
| 6. lovers | f. more and more |
| 7. increasingly | g. particular |
| 8. acquired | h. comfort |
| 9. relief | i. enthusiasts |
| 10. increase | j. rubber-stamped |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of cheese?
- b) What do you know about cheese?
- c) How healthy is cheese?
- d) What do you think of bacteria in cheese?
- e) Why might the smelliest cheese taste the best?
- f) What's your favourite kind of cheese?
- g) How dangerous might cheese be?
- h) What does quarantine involve?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. distinctive | a. lovers in China |
| 2. not officially approved | b. of these cheeses |
| 3. The ban was | c. of pizza restaurants |
| 4. the bacteria used for the production | d. smell |
| 5. harmful to | e. lifted |
| 6. cheese | f. Chinese diet |
| 7. dairy | g. worth \$820 million |
| 8. a typical part of the | h. consumers' health |
| 9. because of the influx | i. products |
| 10. Cheese sales in China will be | j. by the health department |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What's the best way to cook cheese?
- What's your favourite dairy product?
- What's a typical part of your diet?
- What do you think of pizza?
- How do you make cheese?
- What dishes do you know that use cheese?
- What questions would you like to ask a cheese lover?

Spelling

- China has eseredrv an import ban
- vearels types of cheese
- icnitistevd smell
- ariabtce used to make the cheeses
- Chinese rnnietuaaq
- not harmful to urnscemos
- their favourite drayi product
- not a yalpict part of the Chinese diet
- aeqdrnci a taste for cheese
- the nfluxi of pizza restaurants
- It's a real freile
- this otgcyrea of cheese

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. f	8. a	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Cheesecake

You think cheesecake is the tastiest cheese dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): a cheese sandwich, macaroni cheese or cheese fondue.

Role B – Cheese Sandwich

You think a cheese sandwich is the tastiest cheese dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): cheesecake, macaroni cheese or cheese fondue.

Role C – Macaroni Cheese

You think macaroni cheese is the tastiest cheese dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): a cheese sandwich, cheesecake or cheese fondue.

Role D – Cheese Fondue

You think cheese fondue is the tastiest cheese dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): a cheese sandwich, macaroni cheese or cheesecake.

Speaking – Cheese dishes

Rank these with your partner. Put the tastiest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| • cheese on toast | • cheesecake |
| • macaroni cheese | • cheeseburger |
| • cauliflower cheese | • cheese sandwich |
| • palak paneer | • cheese fondue |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.