



PETER PIERCE

This salt savant has his sights set on your pantry.

"I WAS BECOMING CONCERNED with what my kids were eating," explains Peter Pierce. "I never realized that all of the salt we eat is so refined and has so many additives that are potentially unhealthy." So Pierce, a stay-at-home dad, set about researching a finer salt, an unrefined spice still packed with flavor. "I found an amazing fleur de sel from France," he says. "I met with artisanal salt makers in Maui and am working to bring in salt from Turks & Caicos. It's amazing just how different salts can be." The outcome of Pierce's journey is Hamptons Salt Company in Southampton, New York, and the firm's current line of 29 salt varieties.

"We have a great array of flavors. We offer raw salts as well as infused salts. Our line includes everything from Hawaiian red to black truffle salt, garlic and smoked varieties, not to mention the Vermont maple syrup infusion that my kids love on their mashed potatoes," Pierce says. "Salt is having a real renaissance right now. It's so much fun always coming up with new ideas. I'm toying with the idea of a mustard salt. Stay tuned!"

—JASON OLIVER NIXON



► **The word salary** derives from the Latin word *salarium* ("salt money"); Roman soldiers were given an allowance to purchase the all-important salt that prevented food from spoiling.

► **Sodium** is essential for the operation of signals to and from the brain.

► **Iodine** was first added to salt in the 1920s by Morton Salt as a request by the U.S. government to prevent ailments such as goiters.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Suss out salty experiences in Utah, Oregon and Chile.



1 Utah's **Great Salt Lake** has a higher salinity than seawater and is too salty to support fish. Pay a visit to hike, canoe or view the wildlife.



2 Grab a scoop of strawberry honey balsamic with black pepper or another innovative ice cream flavor at **Salt & Straw** in Portland, Oregon.



3 The **world's largest pool**, a saltwater-filled, 20-acre behemoth, can be found in San Alfonso del Mar on Chile's southern coast.