



Retailers said Le Creuset's stainless line (above) and Freilling's Black Cube (below) are expected to be two of the market's hot items this year.

What's Cooking

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"New York is always black," explained Broadway Panhandler's Lamster. "But green is also a very strong color for us as well, especially in prep tools. It blends with other neutrals," she noted, like black, white and gray.

Coastal Cupboard's Pitner explained that different shades of blue are popping up in South Carolina. Le Creuset's re-launch of its Marseilles blue has been very popular with his customers as well as a few other shades of blue including royal and Caribbean blue.

And Kitchen Outfitter's Freeman noted a completely different best-selling color in Savannah, GA. "Red is the top seller across the board," she said.

However, not all gourmet insiders are seeing color as a top market trend. "I think in cookware, color is a very secondary consideration," said Marcel's Fourcé. "Customers see the color for accent, but the cookware purchase is really made for the functionality."

When it comes to shopping trends, gourmet insiders are seeing customers come in with a few consistent issues: Too much information from the Internet that makes purchase decisions confusing, as well as consumers having lots of questions about non-stick offerings.

"Unless customers come in wanting something specific, they really need us to sift through all of the information

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