

High-flying tomato juice

German scientists from the Holzkirchen IBP Institute of Physics have proved that tomato juice tastes particularly good at an altitude of 10,000 meters, whereas it is only moderately popular at ground level. Airline cabin crews were already aware of this fact. The researchers simulated the on-board conditions of an Airbus A310-200 flight in a simulator and put 100 volunteers through a series of tests. The subjects could choose between several meals and drinks. The most frequently chosen drink was tomato juice, whereas it is not particularly popular in Germany. The scientists have concluded that the reduced pressure in an airplane enhances the sensitivity of taste receptors for salt, sugar and the aroma of tomato. They carried out this research at the request of the Lufthansa Airline. According to many cabin-crews, tomato juice and Bloody-Mary cocktails are frequently ordered by passengers, and a lot of airlines consequently stock tomato juice on long-haul flights.

(Source: rtlinfo.be/info, March 2010)