

Fall/Winter 2015

Kettle



Nome / Name: **Tea Rex**

Codice / Code: **9093REX B - 9093REXLAZ**

Designer: **Michael Graves**

ALESSI

Kettle

Product description

Designed by Michael Graves in 1985, the Kettle with the red bird-shaped whistle (1) became one of the icons of 20th century design. To mark the 30th anniversary of this famous kettle, Graves redesigns the whistle, turning the little bird into a charming supernatural reptile (2), a prehistoric, mythological and futuristic creature at the same time. The choice of the dragon and its colour - an intense jade green - is a reference on the part of the designer to the Chinese culture for whom these beings symbolise strength and fortune. Manufactured from 18/10 stainless steel and, like its famous predecessor, produced in the Crusinallo plant in Omegna, "Tea Rex" comes in two versions. One has a jade-coloured whistle, black ball grip and blue handle with two little orange spheres decorating its ends (3). In the other version the whistle is metallic with copper covered by transparent paint; the ball grip and handle are black (4). In this version the little spheres on the handle are blue. The whistle, handle and ball grip are produced from PA while the base is made from magnetic steel, making it suitable for induction cooking hobs as well. The wording "Tea Rex 9093 30th anniversary" is stamped on the lid of the Kettle around the ball grip. "Tea Rex" comes in special packaging with graphics that stresses the contrast between the icon of the new whistle and that of the original design. The same graphic returns in the packaging of the two Whistles (6).



Technical notes

9093REX B Kettle in 18/10 stainless steel with black handle and prehistoric reptilian whistle in PA, copper metallic finish. Magnetic steel bottom.

Dimensions: cl 200 - ø cm 22 - h cm 22.5 / 2 qt 3 oz - ø 8½" - h 9"

9093REXLAZ Kettle in 18/10 stainless steel with light blue handle and light green prehistoric reptilian whistle in PA. Magnetic steel bottom. Dimensions: cl 200 - ø cm 22 - h cm 22.5 / 2 qt 3 oz - ø 8½" - h 9"

Additional project notes

OK, this is how the story of this new kettle by Michael Graves began: out of all the objects we produce, the bird-shaped whistle on his classic kettle 9093 turns out to be the object that gets shoplifted the most worldwide. So one day, Silvano, our manager for marketing and communication, said, "Why don't we ask him to design a new one, for the thirtieth anniversary of the 9093?" No sooner said than done. It's the last project by one of our design heroes.

Alberto Alessi

«In bird years, thirty is equivalent to Methuselah's life span! So When Alberto Alessi asked me to design a new whistle to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our teakettle, I imagined a new evolution in the history of our kettle. One where our little bird might transform into a super-hero: a reptilian creature that is at once prehistoric, mythological, and futuristic. I chose the dragon imagery and its jade green color because of the rich cultural heritage found in Chinese folklore that uses the dragon to symbolize power and good luck. Our Dragon is friendly and he decidedly does not breathe fire, but perhaps lets off a little steam! He has a smile on his face, an easy-to-hear whistle and a wing span that makes it easy to remove him from our teakettle when the water boils. We hope our dragon will proudly protect our kettle and your kitchen for years to come.»

Michael Graves