

Oh! Christmas Tree

Created by Norman Love, president and founder of the renowned Norman Love Confections in Fort Myers.

This stylized tree, complete with sumptuous holiday ornaments and a deliciously wrapped gift, is a confection of 15 pounds of French dark chocolate. The festive ornaments are handcrafted with colored cocoa butters, while the ribbon is white chocolate with red-colored white chocolate strands. The entire sculpture is sprayed with a mixture of chocolate and cocoa butter to produce the finishing luster.

Love, who spent two years in southern France learning the craft of pastry-making from artisans, was chosen at age 30 to be The Ritz-Carlton's corporate executive pastry chef, heading the company's international corps of pastry chefs, a role he held for 13 years. The winner of numerous awards and a virtuoso who has been featured in television programs and prominent culinary publications, Love founded his own company in 2001, and his confections have been named the No. 1 chocolate in the nation by *Consumer Reports*. **NI**

