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Ultimate Guide to Chocolate

Chocolate's the new wine. Believe. It's got depth, body, dimension.

By *Carolanne Griffith Roberts, Sabra Snyder* / Photography: *Van Chaplin*



L.A. Burdick's miniature chocolate penguins have wings made of almonds.

Your childhood chocolate was a kiss or a chunk, a drugstore bar or a bunny at Easter. Like you, chocolate's all grown up and is far more interesting now. We tested the confections for you (no need to say thanks!) and recommend these greats.



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Our Message Boards

Join the online community to find member recipes and give advice.



FREE PREVIEW!



Southern Living Homestyle Cooking—

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Whimsical and Shapely

L.A. Burdick Handmade Chocolates, Walpole, New Hampshire (\$24 for a package of nine mice)

The wow: tiny mice with colorful silk tails, boxed in a wooden case with sealing wax and a ribbon closure. Inside the critters are rich fillings such as mocha and cinnamon. Almond ears on all.

Our choice: the freshness of the orange fillings

To buy: www.burdickchocolate.com, 1-800-229-2419



Pure Art

Norman Love Confections, Fort Myers, Florida (\$18.75 for 10-piece box)

The wow: handcrafted, hand-painted, novel shapes. The 36-piece selection comes in a 4-tier jewelry box (\$58.30).

Our choice: white chocolate ganache pieces with real banana or pumpkin pie flavors within

To buy: www.normanloveconfections.com, (239) 561-7215

Tantalizing Truffles

The Truffle Shop, Nevada City, California (\$38 for nine-piece box)

The wow: bombe-shaped confections big enough for two connoisseurs. Ganache fillings with strong coffee and bittersweet chocolate laced with bourbon and cognac.

Our choice: Raspberry Cream Truffle with dreamy, sweet puree inside a Belgian milk chocolate shell

To buy: www.chocolategod.com, 1-800-366-3538



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