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# WHAT'S COOKING?

Everything from dinner to dessert at classes held in Southwest Florida

by Libby Boren McMillan

This is a wonderful time to be a cook, or even a wannabe cook. Networks devoted entirely to food are pumping out cooking shows like the world might end before breakfast. Cooking magazines fill the shelves at the checkout stand, and kitchenware is sexier than ever.

It only makes sense, then, that cooking classes are also on the rise, in both quantity and quality. Whether you need a great gift idea or are feeling the urge to beef up your own repertoire, Southwest Florida is brimming with classes and schools for food enthusiasts. Here are two of my favorites.

## Norman Love Confections

If your sweet tooth guides your every move, you have the extreme good fortune to live in the same area as one of the world's foremost chocolatiers. The aptly named Norman Love, a Johnson & Wales-trained pastry chef, constantly receives kudos in magazines around the country (*Savueur* among them), while his sinful signature product appears in prestigious candy cases like those at the Ritz-Carlton.

How sweet that he calls Fort Myers home. Chocolate-making classes by professional pastry chefs take place



Chocolatier Norman Love offers chocolate-making classes (bottom left) ideal for anyone with a sweet tooth.



right here in Love's Salon, a sort of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory for adults. Love himself is usually present for classes, giving instruction and chatting and taking pictures with students.

Classes are held only from March through September, so year-rounders have something to anticipate. Participants for each class are limited to twenty, and

the cost per person is \$95. Love's chocolates have received kudos throughout the country; you'll be learning from a master chocolatier. Don't be surprised if you become the most popular person in your circle of friends prior to the holidays.

*Norman Love Confections and the Chocolate Salon, 239-561-7215, [www.normanloveconfections.com](http://www.normanloveconfections.com)*

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NORMAN LOVE CONFECTIONS