

## Blossoms & Chocs: Florist nabs sweet distributorship

*High-end Norman Love chocolates eyed as a business booster*

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Florist Nancy Carrington expounds on the delights of Norman Love chocolates, which she is now selling at Marco Island Florist.

Working on the assumption that people generally buy flowers at one place and chocolates at another for special occasions, Nancy Carrington figured why not marry the two and create a different kind of one-stop shop.

The owner of Marco Florist, Carrington got in touch with go-ahead chocolatier Norman Love, and just in time for Valentine's Day secured the local distributorship for the melt-in-the-mouth treats.

At an informal tasting party Feb. 3 which was attended by some customers and members of the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce, the general consensus on the assortment of sweets was "yum."

Fort Myers-based Love, a former international resort pastry chef who went out on his own in 2001, has received a number of accolades for his creations, not least being named one of the top 10 chocolatiers in North America by a gourmet magazine.

The chocolates vary in price, from loose change small bars at \$3.75 to lavishly packaged 30-piece selections at \$60.

Carrington said the \$32 Valentine selection created by Love is a surprise package that doesn't list fillings, while the all-occasion BLACK package varies in taste because the coffee beans derive from half a dozen different countries.

Novelty alternatives are a two-piece box at \$5.75, and a 20-piece selection at \$50.

The florist is located on Barfield Drive diagonally opposite the Shops of Marco.