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New Confections for Discerning Palates

BY OWEN DUGAN

Looking back over the last year's worth of chocolate columns, I noticed that I had emphasized straight-up bar chocolate. There's a good reason for that: The very best, most complex and thrilling chocolate is served up in bars with as little added as possible. But that's not to say that great chocolate is not being used to make confections—what chocolate nerds call candy—with nuts, fruit and other additions.

And who doesn't like candy?

So this column collects new products from producers who combine great raw materials with care to make chocolate candy that will satisfy even the cacao percentage-obsessed nerds in your life.

S'MORES Another memory-enhanced candy is s'mores.

Evenings by the campfire aside, these things are a gooey mess. I've tried grown-up versions over the years, but they never did it for me. Norman Love, a Florida chocolatier who makes serious straight chocolates and confections (including a cordial similar to the one above), has to my taste fixed the s'more. He uses better and darker chocolate, a great salted caramel, and most important, less marshmallow, making a better proportion with the cracker. I don't think fans will miss the gooey mess in this version of the classic. (\$12 for four; www.normanloveconfections.com)