

FINDING THE PERFECT CHOCOLATE

Norman Love Confections for Mother's Day—or any day

BY PATRICIA LETAKIS

Norman Love may be among the most outstanding chocolatiers in Florida, but one look at the chocolates in his display case and it becomes clear that not only is he a master of the swirling silk sweet, but the man has an artistic bent that makes his confections look like works of art.

Be it gold flecks or a splash of color, be it a round shape or a heart, be it shiny or matte, his chocolates really wow the eye—and the taste buds. Love uses cocoa from far-flung places like Tanzania, Ghana, Peru and Venezuela to make his Black single-origin dark chocolate. His milk chocolate creations surprise with each bite, revealing flavors like a caramelized Bananas Foster, a coffee-infused Caramel Macchiato or a tart Pistachio Cherry.

This spring the Norman Love Confections chocolatiers have created some extra-special chocolates to honor moms on their special day, May 10. The pie-shaped, pastel-colored wedges come in flavors such as Cherry Cheesecake, Chocolate Dipped Strawberry, Cup of Tea and Root Beer Float.

Norman Love Confections is a great place to find handcrafted artisanal chocolates for any occasion, from weddings to gift-giving holidays or just because you want a luxurious chocolate indulgence. His shops also feature pastries and desserts.

Another addition to his sweets selection is Artisan Gelato. Visitors can enjoy the frozen dessert known for its intense flavors, artisan presentation and nutritious value. The authentic handmade Italian gelato is made daily without preservatives and produced with the same creativity and integrity that goes into his chocolates. Love trained with second- and third-generation gelato-makers to ensure that his product is always authentic.

The Fort Myers-based chocolatier has been lauded more than a dozen times by a leading consumer ratings magazine, including recognition six times for producing the best ultra-premium chocolates in the nation. *Forbes.com* included Norman Love Confections Black line on its list of the nation's top 10 truffles; *The Huffington Post* listed it among the six best United States destinations in its Chocolate Lover's Travel Guide; and *USA Today* named Love as one of its top 10 entrepreneurs for 2014.

Through a partnership launched last year, Norman Love Confections chocolates and desserts are now offered on 18 Princess Cruises ships through the "Chocolate Journeys" partnership.

Norman Love Confections chocolate salon is located at 11380 Lindbergh Blvd, off Daniels Parkway east of Interstate-75. Artisan Gelato by Norman Love is next door to the Fort Myers chocolate salon. Other Norman Love Confections chocolate salons are located in Miramar Outlets in Estero and in Parkshore Center at 3747 Tamiami Trail N. in Naples. 📍

Patricia Letakis is the editor-in-chief for TOTI Media.

GET YOUR CHOCOLATE FIX

Learn how to turn chocolate into the tastiest sweets with a class at Norman Love Confections. This summer you can join a class presented by professional artisan chocolatiers and pastry chefs. Visit the Norman Love Confections website to learn more about the classes and to order chocolates, gift baskets, sipping chocolate and Love's new book, *Artistry in Chocolate, A Story of Love*. normanloveconfections.com

