

NADIES

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WHAT'S
COOKING
21 *homegrown
foodie finds*

A FISHERMAN'S TALE
ON THE WATER WITH
ROLAND MARTIN

Rx FOR THRILLS
ROBIN COOK ON
PLOTING MEDICAL
MYSTERIES

**SPORT
& LEISURE**

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Homegrown Taste

With so many Paradise Coast-based entrepreneurs whipping up delicious treats—from ales, chocolates, juices, and jams to dog biscuits—Southwest Florida is a locavore's dream. Many homegrown food businesses in the Naples area came about as an offspring of necessity. These owners could not find the kinds of products they wanted to feed themselves, their kids, or their dogs. So they invented them. Several thriving local entrepreneurs have filled market niches with their foresight, creativity, and diligence.

BY CHELLE KOSTER WALTON

Chocolate

NORMAN LOVE CONFECTIONS

Norman Love has become the first and last name in chocolate in these parts since opening his first location in Fort Myers (239-563-7215) in 2001. Years in pastry kitchens, plus early training in France, taught Love the art of chocolate. His sweet kingdom has today grown to include shops in Naples (239-687-7215) and Estero (239-672-8787). Nearly 30 venues plus Princess Cruise Line sell his award-winning, artful sweets in uncountable varieties. (normanloveconfections.com)



ONCE UPON A BEAN

A self-taught chocolatier, Tracy Peck began experimenting with mixing chocolate and gourmet salts for family and friends to sample. Demand eventually led to an online mail-order business. Based in Naples, Peck sells her handmade artisan chocolate bars, truffles, and other sweet specialties at farmers markets. (239-266-3092, onceuponabean.com)

CANDY GRANDY

When Le Lafayette restaurant partners Juan Camarena and Sebastien Maillard decided last year to open up a new foodie enterprise, they could not have gone further afield from their downtown fine French restaurant than the bright and whimsical candy shop for kids and grown-ups in Coastland Center. The only similarity lies in the delicious homemade chocolates, macarons, pastries, and cakes geared for adults. (239-262-2621, candygrandy.com)

OLDE NAPLES CHOCOLATE

Laurie Rose purchased the then 20-year-old chocolate shop on Third Street South in 2003 and four years later moved it to its current location on Fifth Avenue North and Tamiami Trail. "It's a classic chocolate shop with turtles and caramels and all," she says. The biggest retail seller is the dark chocolate sea salt disk, but the shop also specializes in beach-themed wedding favors. (239-262-3975, oldenapleschocolate.com)

