



Chocolate-peppermint cupcakes at Batter Bakery

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Jan Newberry
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www.batterbakery.com

FIVE GREAT

Holiday desserts

Thanksgiving is just weeks away, so from now until New Year's, the "What do I take to the dinner party?" dilemma will be in full force. Here are five great desserts—some classic, some not—that offer delicious solutions to that age-old problem.

Chestnut Mont Blanc at Masse's Pastries

Christmas comes early at Masse's, where customers have been known to place their holiday orders in July. The chestnut Mont Blanc—made with a hazelnut short crust lined with ganache, filled with whipped cream and meringue, and topped with rum-flavored chestnut vermicelli—is just one reason why. 1469 SHATTUCK AVE., BERKELEY, 510-649-1004

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Gingerbread tiles at Tartine Bakery & Cafe

These drop-dead-gorgeous cookies, made with an antique rolling pin, evoke an Old-World holiday straight out of Dickens. Fashioned from a deliciously spicy, cocoa-infused dough and topped with a light sugar glaze, they're almost (but not quite) too pretty to eat. 600 GUERRERO ST., S.F., 415-487-2600

Panettone at Della Fattoria

The classic Italian Christmas bread is a tradition at Petaluma's Della Fattoria bakery. Made with organic flour, lots of butter, and eggs, and studded with delicate candied orange peel, the dome-shaped loaves come tied with broad satin ribbon, ready for gift giving. Just don't forget to buy one for yourself as well. 141 PETALUMA BLVD. N., PETALUMA, 707-763-0161; FERRY PLAZA FARMERS MARKET (EMBARCADERO AT MARKET ST.), S.F., SAT. ONLY

Pumpkin pie at Mission Pie

Red kuri squash and a variety of baking pumpkins go into the filling of these delicious pies. Sweetened with maple syrup and enriched with organic cream and cage-free eggs, they not only taste great, but they also do good: The bakery collaborates with advocacy groups to provide jobs for local youths.

2901 MISSION ST., S.F., 415-282-1500

(J.N.)