

The Los Angeles Daily News

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SHOP > GOTTA HAVE IT VALENTINE CHOCOLATES

Many can't get enough chocolate, especially on Valentine's Day. It's reported that more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are purchased annually. For those looking for ideas, here are some options.

Charles Chocolates, also from Northern California (based in Emeryville), offers a Valentine's Day box with heart-shaped chocolates (\$45 to \$60 depending on contents), Valentine's Day Heart Shaped Velvet Boxes filled with classic or heart assortments (ranging in price from \$30 for a small heart box to \$60 large). The premium chocolates, hand-crafted and made in small batches by chocolatier Chuck Siegel, are available in many configurations (truffles, etc.) and flavors (Kahlua, mint, blood orange marmalade, raspberry, passion fruit, mojito, lavender honey and more). The fleur de sel caramels were terrific. To order, call (888) 652-4412 or go online to www.charleschocolates.com.

When you want a small Valentine gift for a friend or loved one, opt for something chocolate from Emily's Chocolates. Among the possibilities are milk- or dark-chocolate-covered (love or friendship messages) fortune cookies (3.5 ounces with six per box for \$4.99) or 6-ounce bags of dark-chocolate-covered dried strawberries, cherries, cranberries or blueberries, \$3.99 per bag. Dark-chocolate-covered dried strawberries are also available in a limited-edition heart-shaped red box (8 ounces for \$12.99, 5 ounces for \$6.99). Look for them at CVS, Gelson's, Bristol Farms or order online at www.emilyschocolates.com.

Godiva Chocolatier has introduced an assortment of gift boxes for your valentine. A Romantic Heart Box is covered in a crimson suede-like fabric and adorned with a sheer red ribbon in spirals to create a rose cascade. Available in three sizes -- 15 pieces (\$45), 29 pieces (\$65) and 40 pieces (\$85). Each box has assorted milk, dark and white chocolate pieces. Look for them at Godiva boutiques, Macy's or order at (800) 946-3482 or www.godiva.com.

With Hugh Hefner, a self-proclaimed "chocoholic," Playboy now offers dark and milk chocolate bars in six different packaging designs featuring the iconic Playboy bunny. Each 3.5-ounce bar, in packages with sayings like, "I'm a Girl ... Chocolate Is Not a Luxury, It's a Necessity," "Young and Loaded" and "Living the Good Life" are \$3.99 to \$5.99. Look for them at Aah's stores, call (800) 970-9646 or order online at www.playboychocolate.com.

Overview

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