

The Tribune

Chocol-Art Shoppe has something special in store for Halloween



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HALLOWEEN is almost upon us and that means it's time for trick-or-treating - emphasis on the treating.

At the Chocol-Art Shoppe, a gourmet store that specialises in hand-made chocolates, they are creating something special for the Halloween season this year.

To say that the hand-made chocolates are good is without a doubt an understatement. The chocolate treats, formed in shapes of popular Halloween motifs, are freshly made and melt in your mouth.

Chocolatiere Jenny Pierre of the Chocol-Art Shoppe told Tribune Taste that they wanted to do something very different this year, something that would make kids say "Mummy, I want this".

"We are making some of the same things we made for last year's harvest festival, as we call it, this year. But I wanted to make the chocolates a little different, something more enticing than usual," she said.

Ms Pierre is referring to the store's new chocolate masks, which include the likenesses of the action hero Spiderman and the famous ogre Shrek.

They are made out of milk chocolate and are large enough to cover a child's face.

And although the masks on display at the shop are made out of regular milk chocolate, customers can make their own selections as to the flavours and colours they want their treats to be made with.

"At the store we have on display the chocolate masks that are only made out of regular milk chocolate. We do this because some people don't like all of the different flavours, so we allow them to make their own selections. If they want their Shrek or Spiderman made with the green, red, and blue details we can do it," she said.

The process to create these edible art pieces is quite intriguing, and even though it is a very "nick-picky" procedure, Ms Pierre said it is a labour of love.

To get the shape of the character, a mask is used to make a mold, and then a heat vacuum is used to suction the chocolate. But before the molding is completed the flavours must be mixed into the chocolate first.

Along with the detailed chocolate masks, the Chocol-Art Shoppe is also offering chocolate cats, pumpkins and bags along with other tasty treats.

"The chocolate pumpkin will be made out of either white or milk chocolate, but like I said before, it is whatever flavour the customer wants," she said.

The edible chocolate bags, delightful creations, are about four inches to five inches long, and Ms Pierre said that they are great for party favours.

And have you ever heard of "prapples"? This is the newest edition in the candied apples department, and the Chocol-Art Shoppe is reinventing their flavours, making them even more delicious than before.

"These are not the regular candied apples. It's praline are not so smooth, but they are clear and can be any colour. However, the ones on display will follow an orange theme," she said.

Since the store opened its doors about two years ago the response from the customers has been very favourable, Ms Pierre said.

People have been patronising their shop regularly especially during times like Valentine's Day, Halloween and Christmas.

"We have had pretty good response from our customers all the time. They always compliment us on the way our chocolates are made. What I do think makes our customers satisfied is the taste of our chocolates and the fact that they are made to order, so they are fresh," she said.

The Chocol-Art Shoppe is located in the Mount Royal Plaza. For more information call 356-4449.