## Ugly Truffles are Pretty Tasty

Chocolate Gourmet's handmade treats take the cake. By Rachel Shatto

What's better than chocolate? How about chocolate that comes to your doorstep? Thanks to Mary Winslow, founder of Chocolate Gourmet and Take the Cake, delectable treats including truffles, brownies and cookies are just a click away. This Chicago-based, online company specializes in all-natural, gourmet baked products and chocolate truffles, and for unique delectable treats you really can't do better than their assortment of Ugly Truffles.

Ugly Truffles however, is a bit of misnomer. Winslow chose this moniker to stress that unique flavors are more important than

presentation with these hand-rolled treats-and in that she succeeds in spades. The truffles all have cheeky names like Oozy Boozy Caramel (a creamy caramel center surrounded by brandy milk chocolate ganache, encased in milk chocolate and rolled in toasted pecans), You Suck Lemon (fresh lemon white chocolate ganache covered in bittersweet chocolate and dusted with powdered sugar), and this writer's personal favorite, Gordito Picante (smooth cinnamony Mexican chocolate warmed with chili spices and surrounded in milk chocolate and toasted corn tortillas).

For something a little different, try their Fair & Square blondie. This chewy, mouth-watering browned-butter square is studded with salted pecans and butterscotch chips and it melts in your mouth. But for diehard chocoholics the E=mc2 is the ultimate fix, with its hints of espresso topped with caramelized cocoa nibs.

If your mouth is starting to water, you're beginning to get the picture.

Last—but certainly not least—Gourmet Chocolate also carries Chubby Wubby cookies. Similar in structure to a whoopie pie, soft and chewy chocolate cookies sandwich a ganache center which comes in mint, chocolate, caramel and raspberry flavor. We suggest ordering the raspberry and never looking back. (chocolategourmet.com) ■

