inviting ideas

Sweet treats are good holiday gifts

Sweet treats are a natural during the holiday season – just to have on hand for family and friends, or to give as a special remembrance. Chocolate is a favorite in the sweet department for children and adults alike - who can resist elegant truffles or chocolate covered Oreo cookies?

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Toula Patsalis, owner of Kitchen Glamor stores, cookbook author, and knowledgeable cooking instructor, not only sells all the makings for those fabulous goodles, but does a great class on Chocolate Tokens of Confection. Interacting with her class attendees, Toula freely gives out her trade secrets and

Toula's Tidbits:

- if making chocolates, work in a cool area 60-65 degrees
- do not work with more than one pound of chocolate at a time
- make sure chocolate is cut or grated evenly
- always use a chocolate thermometer (preferably a Wilton thermometer)
- always use a double boiler for melting chocolate (or if using a microwave, melt chocolate in 45 second intervals to avoid scorching)
- always use a plastic spatula or a wooden spoon
- m never let even a drop of-water

touch the melted chocolate (it will ruin

- or delicious chocolate, use one pound of pellets to 1/2 pound chunk chocolate
- use parchment paper to set hot chocolate on, it doesn't stick!

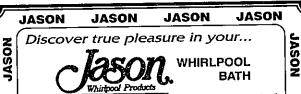
For those huge caramel apples make sure your apples are cold - dip in melted caramel, once the caramel sets up, dip in melted chocolate, or drizzle chocolate over the entire apple. When Cool, wrap in clear colored cellophane -

these are too pretty to hide.

Make some chocolates, or other confectioneries this year for a different kind of gift. Present them in hand-made boxes, adorned containers, baskets, or chocolate boxes (there is a mold you can purchase).

Here are a few delicious home-made treats or sweets to have on hand for the holidays:

See Inviting ideas, page D12



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