

GOLD COUNTRY!

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San Francisco Chronicle

WHAT'S NEW

[Sarah Lefton](#), [Carol Ness](#), [Tara Duggan](#)

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

Chocolate street art in SoMa

One of the great pleasures of living in San Francisco is taking a new route home and discovering an alley never explored, a cafe never heard of and sometimes a paean to chocolate rendered in mural form across a wide swath of SoMa concrete.

Muralist Jerry Warmsley Jr. is working on a huge new piece for the San Francisco Chocolate Factory, the small producer known as much for its souvenir tins as its confections. The work, nearing completion this week, is being rendered in delicious shades of cocoa and cream. It fancifully depicts the stages of the chocolate-making process, from mixing and melting to pouring and molding. (Sorry, no Oompa Loompas here.)

San Francisco Chocolate Factory chocolates actually are made in the South Bay, but owner Mike Litton says he wanted to contribute to San Francisco's artistic reputation and give life to the new production area, warehouse and a retail location that will open next month.

"We don't have the space to operate a factory here, but we wanted to give the illusion," Litton says.

Warmsley enjoys talking to the strangers who pass as he paints atop a mechanical perch outfitted with flood lights and a radio tuned to a jazz station. In about a month, the San Francisco Chocolate Factory will release a limited-edition tin of chocolates



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bearing Warmsley's design on the lid; proceeds will go to support the artist..

San Francisco Chocolate Factory mural, 286 12th St. (between Folsom and Howard), San Francisco; (415) 677-9194; www.sfchocolate.com.

-- Sarah Lefton

OPENINGS

Ultramodern Winterland named for '70s rock venue

The last time I ate at Winterland, it was the Band's "Last Waltz" and the dinner was Thanksgiving turkey.

Starting last Thursday, dining at Winterland means a poached organic egg with bacon ice cream and asparagus soup, or frogs' legs glazed with licorice alongside parsley risotto. Wait, is that a faint "far out" I hear?

Both are starters at the new Winterland restaurant in San Francisco, in the space that housed Julia restaurant. Chef-owner Vernon Morales named it for the old rock venue down the block, torn down long ago for condos. But there's nothing else retro about it.

The ultramodern space is half lounge -- red walls with a big granite bar and orange tuftets at low tables -- and half dining room, sleek and seating 60.

Morales, who has cooked in kitchens such as Flying Saucer, cutting-edge El Bulli in Spain and Daniel in New York, has created a menu that's just as modern.

He cooks using the "sous vide" technique -- a pork belly, fish fillet or lamb loin is sealed into plastic with seasonings, then submerged in a warm liquid until cooked. The pork belly, for instance, cooks in 143° water for 30 hours before it's taken out of its pouch, seared on top and served with date marmalade and star anise jus. The lamb loin, seasoned with pistachio and lemon, takes just 20 minutes in hotter water, and is served with artichokes and eucalyptus jus.

The wine list is global, and there's a separate bar menu..

Winterland, 2101 Sutter St. (at Steiner), San Francisco; (415) 563-5025. Dinner Monday-Saturday. Starters, \$8-\$16; entrees, \$19-\$29; desserts, \$8.

-- Carol Ness

SWEET BEAT

Bakery opens in Berkeley

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The irresistible aroma of baked scones, muffins, cookies and tarts wafted through an otherwise nongourmet stretch of South Berkeley Sunday, with the opening of a new bakery called Sweet Adeline.

The proprietors and bakers are longtime Square One pastry chef Jennifer Millar, and Sasha Crehan, queen of sweets most recently at Garibaldi's on College. They plan to offer sandwiches as well as Millar's memorable polenta cake..

Sweet Adeline Bakeshop, 3350 Adeline St. (at 63rd Street), Berkeley; (510) 985-7381. Open 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily.

-- Carol Ness

SHOPPING CART

Scoop for the Scouts

Those who haven't had their fill of Girl Scout cookies might reach for Dreyer's ice cream mixed with Thin Mint, Samoa and Tagalong cookies and swirls of chocolate, caramel or other flavors. The ice cream will be in stores through May; some proceeds go to the Girl Scouts..

Dreyer's Girl Scouts Cookie ice cream (1.75 quarts) costs \$2.50-\$5.50 at supermarkets like Andronico's and Safeway.

-- Tara Duggan

Page F - 2

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