



Feb 7, 2008

## Melt My Heart



Valentine's news flash: Lover boy (or girl), time's a-wastin'. There are six days left to land a gift your better half will love. And with all the other eleventh-hour shoppers dashing around in the same state of panic, it's hard enough to keep your head, much less come up with a fail-safe gift. What's a procrastinator to do?

Luckily there's hope, and it goes by the name of Tribeca Treats. Located on a historic block of Reade Street, this downtown sweet shop pampers the locals with a melt-in-your-mouth assortment of bonbons, cupcakes, cookies, and the like. Head confectioner Rachel Thebault is on a mission to do for desserts what Coco Chanel did for the little black dress: recreate, reinvent, and pull it all together with exquisite attention to detail.

Even though the shop just celebrated its first birthday, it already counts among its fans celebrity tastemakers like Christy Turlington, Tyra Banks, and Isaac Mizrahi. Not all its customers are quite as famous, but most are just as fashionable, so it's appropriate that Tribeca Treats is featuring two stylish specials to celebrate the big day. For candy lovers, there are handmade caramels that glitter like gems in their pink Mylar wrappers. For cupcake hounds, there's a fun four-piece gift box, each cupcake whimsically marked with an X, an O, or a heart. Those celebrating Valentine's Day single "can eat the heart first," said a cheerful counterperson on a recent visit.

For box-of-chocolate-and-a-dozen-roses traditionalists who want to spice up their act, TT's valentine bonbon varieties include white chocolate passion fruit, champagne truffle, and pink peppercorn, to name a few. Among the best, though, is the simple cinnamon bonbon--this dense, dark creation, loaded with sultry cinnamon and finished with a tiny red piped heart, won over this last-minute shopper on the first bite. It's love.