

Chocolate-flavored finds, from tequila to toothpaste

by Marla Cimini, Special for USA TODAY | Published on December 4, 2014



In a universe where (just about) everyone adores chocolate, it's no surprise that cocoa plays a starring role in so many foods and beverages. Delicious as well as ubiquitous, it even shows up frequently in the most unexpected places.

These are just some of the numerous cocoa-infused delights that feature the creamy, rich and decadent flavor of chocolate:

Chocolate balsamic vinegar

This premium, tangy vinegar can become addictive! Its distinctive, zesty flavor is ideal for enhancing the sweetness of fruit (especially berries) and desserts. Available at [The Olive Tap](#) in Charlotte, N.C., as well as in the company's 11 stores throughout the USA. A selection of other creative and tasty vinegar flavors are also featured in each shop.



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Chocolate beer

The [Rogue](#) Distillery and Public House in [Portland, Ore.](#) always brews up some mouthwatering beer, and their chocolate stout is a frothy indulgence. In addition to this dessert in a pint glass, the brewery also offers a plethora of award-winning beers on tap – in an array of styles and flavors. Cheers!

Chocolate chili peppers

Ready to spice things up? [Kakawa Chocolate House](#) offers whole roasted New Mexican Arbol Chilis dipped in homemade agave caramel and house blended dark chocolate. Located in Santa Fe, N.M., this shop also features a variety of hot chocolate elixirs.

Chocolate coffee beans

For a java jolt, a stop at the [Amana](#) general store in Amana, Iowa is a delightful treat for chocolate and coffee lovers. With a history dating back to the 1850s, one of the best sellers is the German chocolate-flavored coffee beans. Amana also offers other decadent brews, including snowflake sundae coffee, hazelnut crème coffee and chocolate raspberry creme coffee.

Chocolate olive oil

The smooth, piquant dark chocolate intermingles nicely with extra virgin olive oil, and all customers are treated to luscious samples at [Lucero's](#) tasting room in Napa, Calif. The company also offers a selection of olives, vinegars and mustards, as well as a "sundae gift set" with six bottles of oils and vinegars -- perfect for topping off ice cream.

Chocolate pasta (and pesto)

[Hotel Choocolat's](#) "cocoa cuisine" offers homemade unsweetened chocolate wheat pasta, which can be made into a sweet or savory dish. Also, this chocolatier has an accompanying (and equally tasty) rich and chunky chocolate pesto featuring chopped basil, pine nuts, cheese and nutty roasted cocoa nibs. Available at Hotel Choocolat's store in London's Covent Garden and other locations.

Chocolate pudding fruit

Yes, chocolate sometimes grows on trees! Officially known as the black *sapote*, fans of this fruit simply refer to it as "chocolate pudding fruit." Grown in mild climates (primarily in Mexico and Central America), the creamy fruit offers notes of coffee and cocoa, and can be sliced open and eaten with a spoon when ripened. Similar to a persimmon, the sapote is low in fat, and bursting with vitamins, including C and calcium. Available in season at [specialty food stores](#).



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Chocolate salt

Chef Wolfgang von Wieser's chocolate salt is made from Turks and Caicos seawater and blended with cocoa beans and powder, palm sugar, cloves, and cinnamon. Wieser recommends sprinkling his chocolate salt on cakes, pineapple, shaved banana and mascarpone ice cream. Available at the [Grace Bay Club](#) in Turks and Caicos.

Chocolate soda

For the authentic taste of chocolate soda from days gone by, enthusiasts head to [Margie's Candies](#) in Chicago, a landmark since 1921. Known as one of the few places in the country that serves this elusive beverage, they whip up homemade chocolate soda to order and offer house made candy and ice cream, too.

Chocolate tea

Sipping a steaming cup of [Good Earth's](#) Cocoa Tango tea will likely help stave off the winter chill. This herbal and black tea blends together chocolate and rose petals -- with just a hint of chili peppers and refreshing peppermint. Available in grocery stores nationwide.

Chocolate tequila

A chocolate-infused tequila, [Patron XO Café](#) dark cocoa liquor combines the essence of roasted coffee with rich chocolate and light tequila – a delectable combination. For added heat, Patron XO Café dark cocoa liquor "Incendio" blends chile pepper to create a deliciously smooth beverage. Ideal for after-dinner drinks, these tequilas complement an array of desserts, such as ice cream. Available in liquor stores across the USA.

Chocolate toffee bacon bites

Created by executive pastry chef Charles Froke at the [Four Seasons Hotel, Washington D.C.](#), chocolate toffee bacon bites offer a sweet and savory fusion. The treat is made from house cured and smoked bacon caramel combined with bittersweet chocolate, and topped with toasted almonds and pecans. The gourmet toffee is featured in snacks, guest amenities and served at the hotel's on-site restaurant, Bourbon Steak.

Chocolate wine

Sipping wine is even sweeter when it's chocolate dessert wine from [Thorton Winery](#) in Temecula, Calif. The "Kiss of Chocolate" vintage features notes of succulent black cherry, while the "Milk Chocolate Kiss" is a unique wine blended with cream.

Frozen chocolate wine

Chillax! [Frosae](#) frozen chocolate merlot wine is a unique twist on a refreshing dessert. Based in Suffolk County, N.Y., this company uses local Long Island wines to create a texture similar to that of sorbet. Attracting attention among wine lovers,



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the sorbet is available in other flavors as well. Currently, this wine can be purchased on Long Island at multiple [King Kullen](#) food store locations.

Cocoa bean body scrub

Hands down, the [spa at the Hotel Hershey](#) in Hershey, Penn. is a chocolate lover's dream destination. Their cocoa bean scrub is a fan favorite, offering gentle skin exfoliation with a heavenly scent. The spa also offers plenty of innovative services and sells accompanying cocoa-infused products, such as chocolate sugar scrub and whipped cocoa bath gel among others.

Chocolate facial mask

Although this treat is not for eating, [Farmhouse Fresh's](#) Sundae Best chocolate softening facial mask is just like a dessert – for your skin. This rich indulgence is a creamy kaolin-clay mask, which pulls impurities from pores and infuses the skin with natural anti-aging extracts, adding nutrients and moisture. Available at [Saks Fifth Avenue](#) in New York.

Minty cocoa lip gloss

Leaving lips with a shimmery chocolate scent, [Bath and Body Works'](#) lip gloss in minty cocoa softens and shines for a pleasing pucker. This brand also offers an assortment of other chocolaty-mint scented products, such as the festive holiday candle that infuses the aroma of cocoa throughout your entire home. Available at all Bath and Body Works stores across the USA.

Cocoa powder eye shadow

[Too Faced](#) cosmetics has created a generously-sized, calorie-free "chocolate bar" -- an eye shadow collection created with 100% natural cocoa powder. The glamorous set features 16 antioxidant-rich matte and shimmery shades, with names like candied violet and triple fudge -- inspired by their best-selling Chocolate Soleil bronzer. Available at [Sephora](#) and other retail shops nationwide.

Chocolate nail designs

Keep the scent of cocoa always at your fingertips with cool scratch and sniff stickers from "Nail Art." With 44 colorful images, the stickers feature cute cupcakes, ice cream and chocolate drops. Available at [Urban Outfitters](#) retail stores.

Chocolate toothpaste

After eating all that chocolate, now it's time to brush your teeth with it! Introduced in early 2014, Crest's new [mint chocolate trek](#) "Be Adventurous" toothpaste tube is part of a new stable of flavors, including lime spearmint zest and vanilla mint spark. Available at CVS, Walmart and drugstores everywhere.