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CAROLYN HAX
They've decided not to have children. Now, how do they tell his parents? Page 5D

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Baby cakes for grown-up tastes

For the greater good, we sampled nine bakers' cupcakes

By Andrea Weigl
STAFF WRITER

The cupcake craze has hit the Triangle, not only with stores devoted to cupcakes but also with online-only bakers who will deliver a dozen to your door. With Valentine's Day approaching, we thought we would sacrifice our thighs for the greater good and critique cupcakes from nine such bakers. If you want to buy a sweet treat for your sweetheart, you merely have to pick up the phone and order, or plan a Valentine's Day date, picking up the cupcakes in person. And for the do-it-yourself crowd, we share a list of suggested cookbooks for cupcake inspiration on Page 4D.

Spumoni
Sugarland, Chapel Hill

Our favorite cupcake of the bunch. The combination of a strawberry mousse-like frosting under a cap of chocolate ganache on top of a vanilla cupcake was divine.

Fondant Brownie and Ganache Purse
Cupcake Envy, Raleigh

We were skeptical when we cut into a purse-shaped cakelet. But the chocolate cake inside was dense, moist and delicious.

Chocolate Zucchini
Bittycakes, Raleigh

We enjoyed this cupcake with cream cheese frosting. It was so moist we could eat it by itself.

Mexican Chocolate
The Cupcake Bar, Raleigh

Key Lime
Kelley G's Cupcakes, Carrboro

The owner did not tell us before we tasted these

Chocolate Bliss
Bliss, Chapel Hill

Our favorite chocolate cupcake, made of chocolate