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DINING OUT

Cupcakes put Scituate's Baked on the map

May 27, 2012 |

THIS STORY APPEARED IN

The Boston Globe



New

**Baked***763 Country Way, Scituate**781-378-2730**www.bakedthings.com**Open Wednesday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.*

Liam Grelish of Cohasset shows his mother, Stacey, his whoopie pie at Baked,... (Debee Tlumacki for the boston...)

For most people, running a restaurant would be enough to keep them busy. But Jennifer Warshaw isn't most people. So when a "great little space" in the center of North Scituate became available a little over a year ago, Warshaw, chef and owner of 5 South Main in Cohasset, grabbed it and opened Baked, which she describes as a traditional bakery with a modern twist.

"If I won the lottery," she said, "I'd probably have about 42 new businesses going. For me, it's all about the creativity, doing something different, trying something new. I love that creative aspect."

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Cupcakes are Baked's specialty, and earlier this year the newcomer took first place in South Shore Living's Cupcake Battle with its Rasputin, a dark chocolate cupcake stuffed with bittersweet chocolate pudding and raspberry jam, frosted with cream cheese petals, and topped with dark chocolate pearls and a fresh raspberry stuffed with yet more bittersweet chocolate pudding.

Other favorites include sea salt caramel, a tantalizing combination of salty and sweet, and Boston cream pie, a cool mix of custard and cake dipped in hard chocolate. Says Warshaw: "My cupcake is my canvas. I can take one cupcake and make it 15 different ways."

Cheryl Riedel of Scituate is a regular customer. "Their stuff is fantastic," she says. "When I bring a little box that says 'Baked' to an event, everyone's eyes light up. My favorite is the Boston cream pie cupcakes."

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Warshaw, 42, gets help and inspiration in the person of her mother, Maggie Warshaw, who ran Maggie's Corner in Cohasset for nearly 20 years. The elder Warshaw built a following based on her legendary chocolate cake, which continues to be the basis for Baked's chocolate confections.

Maggie, who will turn 70 in October but looks a decade younger, also makes all of Baked's cookies, in flavors such as Mocha Madness, oatmeal almond, and ginger snap. She figures she works about 60 hours a week for her daughter. (The workaholic tendency seems to be hereditary.)

The third member of the Baked team is store manager Alyson Gearty, who worked at Jennifer Warshaw's ice cream shop for three years, then joined the bakery after graduating from Bridgewater State University with a degree in business management. Managing the bakery, running errands, and packaging were no problem, she said, but there was a hidden drawback to the job.

"After three months of working here, I had to join Weight Watchers," she said. "Jenn makes me sample everything."

Everything in the bakery is homemade, Warshaw says, including breakfast pastries, industrial-sized crispy rice treats, whoopie pies, brownies, and jams in flavors such as raspberry, wild Maine blueberry, peach, bumbleberry (a mix of blueberry, raspberry, and strawberry), and "frog," made with orange, fig, ginger, and "a secret ingredient."

To relax, Warshaw reads cookbooks; she has a collection of more than 1,300. "I wake up every morning with 10 or 15 ideas," she said. "I keep a pen and paper by my bed."

ELLEN ALBANESE

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