



CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE
CHOCOLATE
COMPANY
- Since 1981 -

PARIS 1600s ✦ USA 1845
Bissinger's
Handcrafted Chocolatier

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MAJOR CHOCOLATE FACTORY EXPANSION & CHOCOLATE CAFE!



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 1, 2024

The Abel family, owners of both Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company and Bissinger's Handcrafted Chocolatier, have announced a major expansion is coming to their production facility on the Hill. On February 1st, Dan Abel Sr., Rosalie Abel, Christina Abel, Dan Abel Jr., and Christopher Abel purchased the **Ford Tool & Steel** building adjacent to their main production facility and will completely renovate the warehouse and build an addition to their main facility connecting the two properties. The production facility will increase to over 60,000 sq. ft in addition to their existing 25,000 sq ft. distribution center two doors down from the factory.

Major changes are coming to the 5025 Pattison Ave facility. In addition to more manufacturing, packaging, and warehouse space – the company will also have a new sales office for the growing National Wholesale and Direct to Consumer divisions of both brands as well as a new tourism welcome center, event space and café. The expansion will allow for larger groups and a more in-depth tour of the expanded facility. The new café will feature a collection of the finest local pastries, fresh bread, sandwiches, coffee, tea and fresh chocolate creations – a new concept the Abel family has been working on for three years. The café will serve as the beginning of the tour route and patrons will end up in the existing retail store. Construction is scheduled to begin in March and should take 6-8 months to complete. Saint Louis based **GS&S Construction** has been selected as the general contractor for the project.

The factory expansion is a direct result of the national expansion for both Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company and Bissinger's Handcrafted Chocolatier. Today, the two companies' products are sold in over 5,000 high end retail stores such as Dierbergs Markets, Straubs, Barnes & Noble, Neiman Marcus, Williams Sonoma, World Market, Home Goods, Central Markets, Schnucks, Whole Foods, Hallmark, and Mariano's. Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company has 5 retail stores in Saint Louis and Bissinger's has 2 retail boutiques. "With nearly 90,000 sq ft of manufacturing, retail, warehouse and office space – it has been quite a journey from our parents' original brick and mortar location at 6740 Chippewa St." said Christina Abel – VP & Chief Finance Chocolatier.

2024 will be a big year for both Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company and Bissinger's Handcrafted Chocolatier as both companies are going back to national tradeshow and building a larger national distribution network with specialty distributors, sales brokers and customers from coast to coast. "We have



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spent the last forty years building the finest team in chocolate and now we're expanding our infrastructure to maintain our double-digit growth for 2024 and beyond" – said Dan Abel Jr. VP & Chief Chocolate Officer.

The Abel family believes the crown jewel on the entire expansion will be the new café and welcome center. Each family member has worked on a specific part of the project – including creating a private event & party room, craft cocktail pairings, high end coffee, tea and espresso and bistro sandwiches from local purveyors. Chief Chocolatiers Bryan Click and Chris Abel have begun working on new wine, chocolate & food pairings for the new space. "Chocolate is always on the menu with my family and now we are excited to show you what else is on the plate" said Chris Abel – Chief Chocolatier & VP of Manufacturing.

The main manufacturing facility will continue to operate without interruption and the final connection will happen after construction is complete. The Abel family is expecting a fall grand opening for its new space and all will be invited!

ABOUT CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE COMPANY

Founded in 1981 by co-founders Dan and Rosalie Abel, Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company began as one retail store and candy kitchen. Today, Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company's founders are joined by their three children – Christina Abel, Dan Abel Jr., and Christopher Abel in running the business with the finest team in chocolate. The company has 5 retail locations, a State-Of-The-Art manufacturing facility and a wholesale customer base of over 3,000 retail stores. In 2019, the Abel family purchased the legendary Bissinger's Handcrafted Chocolatier, a 350 year old French chocolatier that has called Saint Louis home for over 95 years!

ABOUT BISSINGER'S:

The Bissinger family began its storied tradition of crafting confections in 17th century France, where our legendary chocolate was enjoyed by European nobility and heads of state. According to accounts passed down from generation to generation, Bissinger's confections were a delicacy among notable names such as Napoleon Bonaparte and the Rothschilds, and the family was even granted the title of Confiseur Imperial (Confectioner of the Empire) by King Louis XIV.

Some years later, in 1845, Karl Bissinger left France, bringing his loyal master candy maker and the Bissinger family secrets to the United States. He settled just outside of Cincinnati, where he opened the very first Bissinger's kitchen in America. In 1927, his son, also named Karl, would carry on the Bissinger's tradition, opening his own kitchen in St. Louis--the city our company still calls home.

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