

CHOCS AWAY!

Easter means one thing - chocolate! The UK is currently home to some excellent artisan chocolatiers, and there's no better time to sweet-talk our homegrown talent

Words Rebecca Morten Illustration George Bletsis

UK CHOCOLATE HEROES

HOT CHOCOLATES EDINBURGH
Sharon Grimshaw makes gorgeous luxury chocolates in her kitchen. Known for creating truffle versions of British puddings, her Easter Simnel chocolates, based on the traditional cake, with spices, white chocolate and marzipan, are a real winner. hotchocolates.biz

BETTY'S HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE
This Yorkshire institution has been making great chocolate for 90 years, and you can't beat it for novelty Easter products. The chocolate is thick and tastes heavenly - too good for kids! Choccie badger anyone? bettys.co.uk

ROWDY & FANCY'S CHOCOLATE EDENBRIDGE, KENT
Lynne and Emily only use the best ingredients in their divine handmade treats. Exciting flavour combinations are the order of the day - dark chocolate

fired up with ginger and black peppercorns make Black Dragon a must-try. rowdyandfancys.co.uk

WILLIE'S CACAO UFFCULME, DEVON
Everyone knows Willie Harcourt-Cooze's passion for chocolate, as revealed in his Channel 4 series. He's renowned for top-quality cacao products - we love cooking with his Chef's Drops. williescacao.com

BLACK MOUNTAIN GOLD CRICKHOWELL, POWYS
Master chocolatier Jules James uses local ingredients to give his products the edge. The Sea Salt Dragon bar - dark chocolate with Halen Môn sea salt - has a particularly satisfying salty hit. blackmountainchocolate.co.uk

THE CHOCOLATE NEST SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE
Award-winning chocolatier Sarah Dredge deserves all the awards she gets. We particularly love her white chocolate pralines - the bitterness of the nuts balancing the sweet coating perfectly. Yum! thechocolatenest.co.uk

CHOC EVENTS

HOLKHAM HALL'S EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA, NORFOLK
Head to Holkham on the north Norfolk coast for four days of Easter family fun, including a Victorian Easter feast and an eggcellent treasure hunt. 29 Mar-1 April; holkham.co.uk

THE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL SOUTH BANK, LONDON
Calling all chocolate lovers! This free



festival is for you. From demos with chocolate masters to kids' activities, it's all here. Also happening in Bristol, Brighton and Oxford. 22-24 March; festivalchocolate.co.uk/festivals/london

THE GREAT PETER RABBIT WATER AID EGG HUNT 2013 THE WORLD OF BEATRIX POTTER, CUMBRIA
Get your little ones to look for 50 ceramic eggs hidden around the lakes to win fantastic prizes. 4 April; hop-skip-jump.com/explore/peter-rabbit-easter-egg-hunt

SWEET COURSES

COCOA BLACK PEBBLES, SCOTTISH BORDERS
For those serious about the sweet stuff, try the Make Your Own Chocolate Truffles, Pralines & Ganache class. 21 & 30 March; £75; cocoablack.com

CHOCOLATE ALCHEMY LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS
Give yourself and a friend a real treat with a Chocolate Making Workshop For Two. £70; chocolate-alchemy.co.uk

RUMSEY'S CHOCOLATERIE THAME, OXON
What better Easter present than a chocolate figurine made by your own fair hand? The kids will love having a go at this. 17 March, 21 April & 19 May; £57; rumseys.co.uk

LONDON'S TOP CHOCOLATIERS

Paul Wayne Gregory

He made the Queen chocolates for her 80th birthday, and what's good enough for Her Maj is good enough for us. Warning: the champagne truffles are very moreish. paulwaynegregory.com

Paul A Young

One of the most exciting artisan chocolatiers right now, Paul is known for making handmade chocolates with inspired flavour combos - no one can resist his traditional Yorkshire rhubarb and stem ginger choc. paulayoung.co.uk

Amelia Rope

Amelia makes bars of single-origin gorgeousness, stocked in Selfridges and Liberty. Subtle and classy, the Pale Rose chocolate cube is heaven in a bite. ameliarope.com

Artisan du Chocolat

With Gordon Ramsay, Heston Blumenthal and Michel Roux Jr as fans, you can bet master chocolatier Gerard Coleman makes amazing stuff. If you only try one thing, it has to be his liquid salted caramels. artisanduchocolat.com