

EVERYDAY

with RACHAEL RAY

rachaelraymag.com

no more cooking ruts!

56 **New Ideas** to Play Up Every Plate

6 Ways to Get Your Chocolate Fix
PLUS Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookies p.142

STRESS LESS, SAVE MORE!

FAMILY DINNERS FOR \$7

20-MINUTE MEALS

5 GREAT GROCERY BUYS

+ YOURS TO WIN: \$3,161 worth of goodies

Rach's Valentine's Day Special



beat the winter blahs!
(no balloons required)

FEBRUARY 2010



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Take a bite outta life!

February 2010

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM WRIGHT; hair by Carrie Fernow; makeup by Kim White at kimwhitemakeup.com; wardrobe styling by Jane Harrison-Fox; jacket by Zara; T-shirt by Splendid; jeans by Banana Republic; necklace and earrings by Itay Malkin; ring by J.Fein Designs; prop styling by Philippa Brathwaite.



p142

Love! Believe it or not, we don't only feel it for food. We're celebrating the heart-shaped emotion in all its forms this month, from the pj's-and-a-movie variety ("Cozy Evening In," page 26) to the decadently indulgent kind ("Extreme Chocolate," page 92). And don't miss Rach's edible love letter to her man, John (30-Minute Meals, page 84). Okay, so maybe food *is* a big part of our definition of *amour*—but isn't that why you love us?

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if you want...
...cooking tricks

...to save \$\$\$

...personal time

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Chocolate Chip Cookies

Did any other cookie ever stand a chance? The classic treat is even more delicious at these bakeries. BY NINA LALLI | PHOTOGRAPH BY KANA OKADA

BATH, MAINE

THE SPOT Marnee Robinson believes in the power of quality baking. Her cookie creations—with names like Shangri-La and Xanadu—are meant to transport you. Her shop in mid-coast Maine, **Marnee's Cookie Bistro** (23 Elm St., 207-371-8017, marnees.com), sure smells like heaven: The cookies are baked fresh daily. Lucky for us, Robinson sends them around the world.

THE SPECS The Marnee's Nirvana (\$1.60) is your classic thin chocolate chip, with a twist: a sprinkling of oats and toffee chips. Brown sugar, butter and honey bring it together, but it's Robinson's touch that makes the cookies special. Friends with the recipe swear they can't get the same results.

DES MOINES, IOWA

THE SPOT The owners of **Baby Boomers Café** (303 E. 5th St., 515-244-9107, babyboomersdiner.com) didn't know what was in store for them in the summer of 2007, when Barack Obama set up camp next door to prepare for the Iowa caucuses. His campaign team and his daughters became regulars, and the cookies are now shipped all over the country.

THE SPECS Sasha and Malia know good cookies when they taste them: The Baby Boomer chocolate chunk (\$1), now known as "The Obama Cookie," is a classic thick and moist dunker, but we may never know what makes it so magical. As with many treasured recipes, a secret ingredient is closely guarded.

BOSTON

THE SPOT Torri Crowell, who spent years in the restaurant biz before opening **Volle Nolle** (351 Hanover St., 617-523-0003), is modest, insisting, "I'm no pastry chef." Fans might disagree, but it's true that Crowell's baking was a side note when the 16-seat sandwich shop opened four years ago. She simply thought people might want something sweet after lunch, the only meal served.

THE SPECS The cookies (\$1.25) are on the dark side, due to the fact that Crowell shaves a block of chocolate into large chunks and tiny specks that melt into the dough. A generous butter content and high baking temperature send them spreading, but it's the saltiness that makes these guys so addictive.

LOS ANGELES

THE SPOT Who knew the stick-thin Hollywood set even ate cookies? Apparently they do, at **DeLuscious Cookies + Milk** (829 North Highland Ave., 323-460-2370, delusciouscookies.com). Renée Zellweger and Reese Witherspoon have proclaimed their love in print. We're also into the classics—peanut butter, oatmeal raisin—and the seasonally driven kind: Right now there's a fresh lemon shortbread.

THE SPECS The large, deliciously chewy chocolate chip cookie (\$3.25) is pumped full of three kinds of chocolate (including one imported from Belgium) and is a star in its own right. It made a cameo in *Entourage*, when the character Drama held it up to bribe a security guard.