



"A TENDER, RAUNCHY COMEDY"
MANOHLA DARGIS, *The New York Times*


SFoodie

SAN FRANCISCO'S TASTIEST COVERAGE

TOP blog STORIES



SFoodie's 92 Pork Banh Mi at Little Vietnam

By Jonathan Kauffman



Beer Guide to Day 1 of SF Beer Week

By Jason Henry



SFoodie's 92 S.F.'s 92 Best Dishes, Part 1

By John Birdsall, SFoodie Editor



Food for a Cause One Love, SFoodie's Bake Sale Benefit

By John Birdsall, SFoodie Editor

SFoodie's 92 No. 70: Blackstrap Molasses Gingerbread from Lotta's Bakery

By John Birdsall, SFoodie Editor, Tue., Feb. 8 2011 @ 5:08PM

Categories: SFoodie's 92, Sweet Beat

Share 7 Like  10 retweet 0



Gil Riego Jr.

Lotta's Bakery's blackstrap molasses gingerbread, \$2.75.

SFoodie's countdown of the 92 best things to eat and drink in San Francisco, 2011 edition.



Small, owlish Earl Darny does American baking like few pastry chefs in San Francisco: flaky, butter-crust pies with fruit he sources from Heart of the City farmers' market; spiral cinnamon rolls; plump layer cakes. But in the four years since Darny opened **Lotta's Bakery**, he's gotten almost exactly zero notice from the local food press.

Maybe it's because so much of what Darny bakes has the throwback feel of the well loved. "Nobody does stuff about you unless you're the hot ticket," Darny says in a matter-of-fact voice, and Lotta's – which

takes its name both from famed S.F. personality **Lotta Crabtree** and Darny's drag alter ego, **Lotta Lust** – is definitely not the hot ticket. The dominant color here is a grandma shade of cake-box pink. And because Darny shares the place with Sweet Antiques, which belongs to

Most Popular Stories

- [This is Why Everyone Shopping at Trader Joe's Hates You](#)
 - [Choco-Potamus, the Ultimate Marijuana Chocolate](#)
 - [Does This Faux Condom Dish Go Too Far?](#)
 - [Bitchin Kitchen's Nadia G, the Punk-Rock Julia Child](#)
 - [One Month In, San Francisco's Best Things to Eat and Drink](#)
- [More Most Popular...](#)

VOICE DEAL OF THE DAY
Presented By
SF WEEKLY 50-90% off
[Click here to sign up.](#)

"A TENDER, RAUNCHY COMEDY"
MANOHLA DARGIS,
The New York Times

 SFoodie on Facebook
[Like](#)

his life partner, Richard Pullano, one side of the room is crammed with shiny Deco toasters, a sleek ceramic panther from the 1940s, and scores of other vintage chotchkes.

Darny's amazing blackstrap molasses gingerbread, too, is grounded in the past. The recipe comes from alpha blogger **David Lebovitz**, who developed it when he was pastry chef at long-defunct Monsoon. The inch-and-a-half slabs Darny cuts from the loaf are sticky and black, minutely whiskery with fresh ginger fibers, and with a snarly, nearly smoky taste of the blackstrap, the dregs of the sugar-refining process. The thing is almost savage in its depth of flavor and the dankness of its crumb, served up in the city's frilliest pastry shop.

Lotta's Bakery: 1720 Polk (at Clay), 359-9039.

Dishes in our series so far:

- 92: **Goat tacos** from **El Norteño**
- 91: **Faux shark's fin soup** at **Benu**
- 90: **Esperpento's** alcachofas a la plancha
- 89: **Poco Dolce's** olive oil chocolate bar
- 88: **Decantr's** chicken-liver mousseline
- 87: **Outerlands'** levain bread
- 86: **Fraiche's** frozen yogurt
- 85: **Gyro King's** spinach pie
- 84: **Tandoori fish** from **Lahore Karahi**
- 83: **Braised oxtail and daikon** from **Namu**
- 82: **Golden Gate Bakery's** custard tart
- 81: **Commonwealth's** cured foie gras with umeboshi purée
- 80: **Star Stream's** Liège-style waffle
- 79: **Mexican hot chocolate** from **La Oaxaqueña**
- 78: **Meatball sandwich** from **Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store Cafe**
- 77: **Cheesecake** from **Zanze's**
- 76: **Chicken pepian** at **San Miguel**
- 75: **Macau iced coffee** at **Vega/Special Xtra**
- 74: **Comstock Saloon's** Pisco Punch
- 73: **Hai Ky Mi Gia's** duck leg noodle soup
- 72: **Sauerbraten** at **Walzwerk**
- 71: **Boudin noir** at **Cafe Bastille**

Follow us on Twitter: @sfoodie, and like us on Facebook. Contact me at John.Birdsall@SFWeekly.com

Tags:

best dishes 2011, blackstrap molasses gingerbread, David Lebowitz, Earl Darny, Lotta's Bakery, Richard Pullano, SFoodie's 92, Sweet Antiques

Write Comment Email to Friend Print Article

Add New Comment

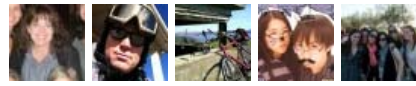
Optional: Login below.

Showing 0 comments

Sort by Oldest first

Real-time updating is **enabled**. (Pause)

159 people like **SFoodie**.



Lyn Eric Joshua Joanie Libby

Facebook social plugin

Sign up for free stuff, news info & more!



(click for one hundred reasons to drool)

San Francisco Classifieds

buy, sell, trade (6,757)	musician (437)
rentals (4,040)	jobs (1,220)
personals (182)	adult entertainment (13,577)

Slideshows



3rd Annual Heavy Metal Chili Cookoff at Bottom of the Hill



Food Porn: Plum



Cotogna: Simple Italian Fare

More Slideshows >>

Tools

Search SFoodie

Follow us on:

send us your tips

Categories...

Archives...