

These treats
are lovely,

Dark

Sweet

For the gourmand, the holiday season offers an array of choices to indulge in this one time of year.

For those who love fresh, locally grown produce, November is the saddest month, marking the end of the harvest season. Fortunately, it also begins holiday celebrations when Maine's culinary pros pull out all the stops to provide an array of goodies that lighten the heart.

At charming little **BOGUSHA'S POLISH DELI** on Stevens Avenue, Bogumila Pawlaczyk, also known as Bogusha, presents several Old World delicacies for the holidays. There's plum strudel, poppy seed roulette, and babkas with raisins, cheese, or plum butter. Traditional Polish Christmas Eve favorites include *Capusta Vegelina*, which is something like a hunter's stew with mushroom, onion, and tomato; and two different kinds of peroggi—with mushroom and sauerkraut, or with potato, onion, and cheese. To warm cold winter nights, this year Bogusha will offer some Polish soups to go, including barley soup with mushrooms and kielbasa, red or white borscht, and sorrel soup with hard-boiled eggs.

"We're going to have beautiful stuff," she says. "Anyone who knows my cooking knows how good it is. All handmade, very fresh."

Readers might not expect to find a huge collection of German and Viennese holiday treats down a country road in rural Waldoboro, but this is one of the claims to fame of **MORSE'S KRAUTHAUS AND EURO DELI**. "At Christmastime, it's really unbelievable," says co-owner David Swetnam. "We lose control."

Chief among Morse's holiday delights is a fragrant medley of *Stollen*—rum, marzipan, butter, and more—from under \$10 to \$50 from some of Germany's oldest and most famous bakeries, such as Reimann in Dresden and Niederegger in Lübeck. The store also imports *baumkuchen*, literally "tree cake." The king of European Christmas cakes, these elaborately layered confections "are cut hori-



Stonewall Kitchen's handcrafted Chocolate Lava Cake has a molten chocolate center.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY STONEWALL KITCHEN