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Cupcakes have comfort of home

By Linda Perney
amNY.com

Saying you don't like cupcakes is a little like saying you don't like Mom. The question then becomes: Who bakes the best ones if Mom's not around? Here's a sampling of some of our favorites around town.

Tribeca Treats

94 Reade St.
212-571-0500
\$2 per cupcake

One of the newest entrants in the cupcake competition, the cakes here are a little more elegant than elsewhere. Chocolate and vanilla are available every day, plus two specialty flavors.

Eleni's

Inside Chelsea Market
75 Ninth Ave.
888-435-3647
\$2 per cupcake



Tribeca Treats, recently opened in TriBeCa, serves up elegant, tasty cupcakes, below.

(Neil Harris)

Eleni's is famous for its illustrated cookies. But the cupcakes also have a following, and come with illustrations if you order ahead. Among the flavors are vanilla, chocolate, banana, carrot, Oreo and peanut butter with assorted buttercream icing.

Cupcake Cafe

545 Ninth Ave.
18 W. 18th St.
212-465-1530
\$2.50-\$3.25 per cupcake

This is the granddaddy of the cupcake craze — they

were around before Magnolia. They're most famous for their decorated cakes, which use buttercream as art.

Buttercup Bake Shop

973 Second Ave.
212-350-4144
141 W. 72nd St.
212-787-3800
\$1.85 per cupcake

We know people who are addicted to the Lady Baltimore cupcakes — rich with almonds and iced with meringue frosting. The German chocolate is also good.

Billy's Bakery

184 Ninth Ave.
212-647-9956
\$1.75 per
chocolate or
vanilla cup-
cake; \$2.25
per specialty
cupcake

The most popular cupcake here is the vanilla with vanilla icing, a just-right hit of

sugar. They also have special flavors, including chocolate cherry and coconut.

Sugar Sweet Sunshine

126 Rivington St.
212-995-1960
\$1.50 per cupcake

They have the homey, neighborly vibe down pretty well, and the thrift-shop furniture fits right in. The pumpkin cupcake has a serious following.

Magnolia Bakery

401 Bleecker St.
212-462-2572
\$1.75-\$2.25 per
cupcake

The "Sex and the City" girls ate here, and the lines on the weekend stretch down the block. For our taste, the cupcakes are too sweet, but there are hordes who beg to differ.



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