



Vancouver chocolate bar “Mermaid’s Choice” won Top Chocolate Bar at an international contest in California.

Photo courtesy of Mink Chocolate

Vancouver chocolate bar wins gold medal

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*
by Nancy Carson

Marc Lieberman is a very happy man. He started a chocolate company in Vancouver. He opened Mink Chocolates eight years ago. Now he has two stores. The other one is in Surrey, B.C.

“Going nuts”

A few months ago, Lieberman was reading his emails. He read that one of his chocolate bars won “top chocolate bar” at a competition in California. Lieberman said he “**went nuts**”. “I think people must have thought I was being murdered.”

Every chocolate maker in the world

Any chocolate maker can enter the contest. Lieberman knew about the competition. But he had never entered. In 2014, his wife convinced him to try.

Medals for a newcomer

Mink Chocolates won six other medals. Lieberman says the most important award is the top chocolate bar. This year, 2014, judges awarded two gold medals for the best bar. An Australian company will share the title.

A new study about elephants

Researchers Karen McComb and Graeme Shannon tested the elephants. They took a large loud-speaker and covered it with sticks. Then they placed the speaker about 50 metres from a place where 47 elephant groups walked by at different times.



Denmark’s famous statue of a mermaid, a creature believed to be half woman and half fish.

Photo by Long Zhen/CC, Flickr (<https://flic.kr/p/56iyjf>)

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Mermaid's Choice

The winning chocolate bar is filled with **ganache**, and it is 70% dark chocolate.

Lieberman is already thinking, "What will I enter next year?"

Local chocolatiers win in Vancouver

Since 2012, Canadian chocolate makers have entered the International Chocolate Awards.

The 2014 Canadian competition was in October in Vancouver.

Vancouver's *Beta5 Chocolates* won gold medals.

Chez Christophe Chocolate Patisserie won silver, and *Gusto Chocolates* won bronze.

The Canadian winners can go to the world finals in November in London, England.



Mink Chocolate has some unusual names for their bars, like "Romeo and Juliet", "Navel Gazing" and "Certifiably Nutty"

Photo courtesy of Mink Chocolate

Vocabulary:

1. **"went nuts"**: acted in a crazy manner, or behaved as if someone was out of control.
2. **mermaid**: a mythical half-human sea creature with the head and upper body of a woman and the tail of a fish. One of the most famous statues of a mermaid is in Denmark.
3. **ganache** (ga - NASH): melted chocolate mixed with cream.

Links:

Watch a video showing how chocolates are made at Mink's Chocolates:

<http://www.minkchocolates.com/mink-video-hand-crafted-chocolate-bars>

Purdy's Chocolates opened its first chocolate shop in 1907 on Robson Street in Vancouver. Purdy's was voted by its employees as one of Canada's 50 Best Employers in 2002, 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2014: www.purdys.com

Do you know how to taste chocolate?

<http://blogs.vancouversun.com/2014/04/08/how-to-taste-chocolate-like-a-pro/>

Gusto Chocolates explains their name:

<http://gustochocolates.ca/about/>

Beanpod Chocolates, Fernie, B.C.

<http://www.thewestcoastreader.com/a-beanpod-from-fernie-goes-to-london/>