

JOHN KIRA'S



PRESS KIT

JOHN & KIRA'S

OUR STORY



John and Kira's chocolate creations are made with the finest ingredients sourced from urban gardens and small family farms around the world. We met in 1999 at one of Kira's famed rooftop barbeque parties, where she served risotto and egg cream sodas. John, having spent two years in Italy and three in New York, was quite impressed. Kira was impressed that John was working at her favorite socially responsible restaurant in Philadelphia, The White Dog Café. Our love of food and community is what brought us together and has been the driving force behind the company we created, John and Kira's.



The idea for a chocolate company sprung from a road trip John took around the Northeast in search of innovative concepts in food. A boutique chocolate company seemed like the perfect idea as it was fun, creative and could be mixed with local ingredients such as mint from urban school gardens. We got right to work and launched John and Kira's in 2002.

Before we knew it, the editors at *Gourmet Magazine* picked up on our confections and declared them their "favorite chocolates," prominently displaying our creations on the cover of the Valentine's Day issue of *Gourmet* in February, 2003. From those humble beginnings John and Kira's has grown and developed many clever and whimsical creations such as Chocolate Ladybugs, Bees and most recently a "Comfort Collection" featuring handmade marshmallow and peanut butter confections.

Our signature line of chocolate ganache squares features ingredients from sustainable artisan food growers local to our Philadelphia chocolate studio, across the country and around the world. They highlight:

- fresh mint grown in urban school garden programs in Philadelphia, Chicago and DC that teach students about nutrition and agriculture
- honey from family-run Draper's Apiaries in PA paired with organic lavender
- lemongrass from a biodynamic & organic farm preserving heirloom crops in CA
- ginger from a biodynamic & organic farm on Molokai, Hawaii
- shade grown coffee from a worker-owned Fair Trade cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico
- pistachios grown, harvested & roasted on family owned & operated Eagle Ranch in NM
- organic earl grey tea from a Sri Lankan employee-owned cooperative

Today we continue to focus on ethical sourcing and innovative design and look forward to many more years of creativity and chocolate!

JOHN KIRA'S

CONNECT WITH US

www.johnandkiras.com/category/press



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www.linkedin.com/company/john-and-kira's-chocolates



JOHN & KIRA'S

NEW 2014 PRODUCTS



Marshmallow Heaven

S'mores inspired marshmallow confections

www.johnandkiras.com/product/Chocolate-Marshmallow-Heaven



Peanut Butter Chocolate Trio

Our sophisticated take on a childhood classic

www.johnandkiras.com/product/Peanut-Butter-Chocolate-Trio



Holiday Marshmallow Heaven

Raspberry, mint, caramel, & marshmallow for the Holidays

www.johnandkiras.com/product/Holiday-Chocolate-Marshmallow-Heaven



STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE
to a perfect winter weekend

FEBRUARY 2003

Gourmet

THE MAGAZINE OF GOOD LIVING

We Found
Our Favorite
Chocolates
page 31

HOW TO
TASTE WINE
plus
5 BARGAIN
BOTTLES



LONDON'S
Best New Restaurants
GREAT BRUNCHES

EVERY FLAVOR COLLECTION

www.johnandkiras.com/category/Every-Flavor-Collection

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GOOD LIVING

TASTES ... TOOLS ... TRAVEL ... TRENDS ... TALK ... TALENT ... TECHNOLOGY



Philadelphia's
Jubilee Chocolates
are all about
fresh flavor.

Chocolates on a Mission

Social change through chocolate isn't something you hear about every day. But John Doyle and Kira Baker, cofounders of Philadelphia's Jubilee Chocolates, believe that their confections can make a difference.

The pair met about four years ago, when Baker was spearheading an inner-city school gardening project as a grad student at the University of Pennsylvania and Doyle was sourcing regional ingredients for the White Dog Cafe. They soon realized that their common interests extended beyond

each other. (They're now engaged.) "We both wanted to create a business that would draw its energy and its ingredients from the community," says Baker.

"And we wanted to sell a product that could be enjoyed outside of Philly," adds Doyle, "and that would make people happy. We pretty much backed ourselves into chocolate."

Lucky for us. Since September 2000, the couple have been handcrafting a line of thin squares infused with local flavors—and stories. The mint chocolates (the best we've

ever had) are made with leaves grown by students at a nearby elementary school. The honey in the lavender honey chocolates comes from a part-time beekeeper in West Philadelphia. And the sweet crop of farmer Glenn Brendle, in nearby Gap, Pennsylvania, is the secret behind the raspberry squares. "When we buy berries from Glenn," says Baker, "we only make a small dent in his business. But the hope is that we'll inspire others to support local agriculture, too." Gift boxes from \$6 to \$57 (800-747-4808; jubileechocolates.com). —Andrea Strong

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROHULO YANIS

FEBRUARY 2003 GOURMET

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EVERY FLAVOR COLLECTION

www.johnandkiras.com/category/Every-Flavor-Collection

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Ratings *Chocolates*

► CR Quick Recommendations

See a summary of test findings and Quick Picks--the choices that merit first consideration.



CHOCOLATES

Key numbers with a * indicate Quick Picks.

Click ⓘ for more information.

In order of overall quality.

Key no.	Product ⓘ	Price ⓘ	Weight (oz.) ⓘ	Cost per oz. ⓘ	Shipping ⓘ	Shelf life ⓘ	To order
EXCELLENT							
*1	John & Kira's Jubilee Wood Gift Box	\$65	18	\$3.69	\$8	2 wk.	www.jubileechocolates.com , www.johnandkiras.com 800-747-4808
*2	Martine's Box Assorted with Creams	63	16	3.93	15	5 days-3 wk.	www.martineschocolates.com 212-744-6289 or 212-705-2347
*3	Norman Love Confections	37	8	4.62	16-20	3 wk.	www.normanloveconfections.com 239-561-7215
*4	Candinas CR Best Buy	40	16	2.50	10	10 days	www.candinas.com 800-845-1554
*5	La Maison du Chocolat Coffret Maison with assorted chocolates	76	21	3.59	24	4 wk.	www.lamaisonduchocolat.com 800-988-5632
*6	Moonstruck Classic Truffle Collections	70	20	3.50	16	3 mo.	www.moonstruckchocolate.com 800-557-6666
*7	Jacques Torres Jacques' Assortment CR Best Buy	43	16	2.69	8-15	3-4 wk.	www.mrchocolate.com 718-875-9772
VERY GOOD							
*8	Fran's Assorted Truffles Gift Box	\$58	16	\$3.63	\$12	30 days	www.franschocolates.com 800-422-3726
*9	Godiva Gold Ballotin CR Best Buy	35	16	2.19	8	2-3 wk.	www.godiva.com 800-946-3482

EVERY FLAVOR COLLECTION

www.johnandkiras.com/category/Every-Flavor-Collection



gift guide *for anyone*



1. bird bingo game

Fantastically illustrated, featuring classics, like the robin, and tween-boy faves, like the Blue Tit.
TO BUY: Bird Bingo, \$30, amazon.com.

2. gourmet barbecue sauces

For the serious griller, a trio of blends from famed Chicago pitmaster Charlie McKenna.
TO BUY: Lillie's Q three-bottle gift set, \$30, lilliesq.com.

3. sausage fest

Top-shelf charcuterie—chorizo, country sausage, fig paste—at a special discount. Ready to serve.
TO BUY: The Real Simple mix, \$50, charlitoscocina.com.

4. salty dark chocolates

Divinely dusted turtle updates that are worth shelling out for. Snap them up while you can.
TO BUY: Chocolate Tortoises, \$22.50 for 12, johnandkiras.com.

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CHOCOLATE TORTOISES

www.johnandkiras.com/product/Chocolate_Tortoises

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JOHN & KIRA'S

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT US



“Not only are John & Kira’s Chocolates pretty delicious, but the company also strives to keep social issues and community activism in mind.”

Jessica Sain-Baird, Mother Earth Living

“Ordinary flavors made extraordinary by fresh ingredients.”

Consumer Reports

“Philadelphia-based John & Kira’s crafts lustworthy treats using ingredients from local farms and gardens.”

Fast Company

“10 star chocolate makers, each producing unique creations that were truly divine to eat.”

Sierra Burnett, Saveur

“The verdict: absolutely delicious. John & Kira’s has perfected the art of balancing flavors.”

Faye Bernoulli, Faye Bernoulli Photography

“They are beyond amazing...and unlike anything that I have ever tasted.”

Julie Park, Food, Laughter & Happily Ever After



JOHN & KIRA'S

SALTED HONEY CARAMEL BEES

www.johnandkiras.com/product/Chocolate-Bees



"John & Kira's chocolates are actually little pieces of art; they are almost too beautiful to eat (although now there are only two left in the box!)"

Joanne Leclair, Captured in a Jar



"An adorable designed treat."

Michelle Mass, Philadelphia Style

CHOCOLATE LADYBUG MEDLEY

www.johnandkiras.com/product/Chocolate-Ladybugs



"Two of the best pieces of chocolate I've had in the last year - maybe ever."

William Kinder, Chocolate Obsession

"The chocolate ganache ladybugs hit the money spot."

Ariel Knutson, BuzzFeed - Life



"The ganaches were luscious and intensely flavored of each indicated flavor."

Tina Wong, The Wandering Eater

JOHN & KIRA'S

WHISKEY GANACHE FILLED FIGS

www.johnandkiras.com/category/Chocolate-Figs



"You're drooling just thinking about them."

Ruth Baron, Oprah.com

**"The whiskey-chocolate-creme
filled figs were out of this world."**

Andy Harvey, Boomsy

**"They are a sinfully delicious treat.
I'm salivating at the mere thought of them."**

Jill Homiak, USA Love List

**"They were so irresistible that the moment we opened our first box,
we popped one into our mouth as an involuntary reaction—before even
thinking to offer them first to guests."**

Karen Hochman, The Nibble



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JOHN & KIRA'S

URBAN GARDEN BARS

www.johnandkiras.com/category/Chocolate-Bars



"My personal favorites are the amazing Urban Garden Chocolate Bars, unlike any chocolate you've ever tried."

Sue Manuel, Afar.com

"Some of the most delicious locally crafted products."

Allison Stadd, U Wish U Nu

"This tastes like you've gone out into a meadow and sandwiched a sprig of spearmint in between two pieces of delicious dark chocolate."

Albert Yee, Messy & Picky

The beauty of their business is that they are **perpetually innovating**—always coming up with something even better, even more delicious, and they've recently come up with something, not only delicious, but novel, and even philanthropic."

Alex Tewfik, Philly Mag - FooBooz

"Tasters liked the clean, crisp mint that came through the dark chocolate. If you've ever eaten a freshly picked mint leaf from the garden, you'll understand."

Esther Sung, Epicurious Blog

JOHN & KIRA'S

OTHER MENTIONS



To Give: Just to Say: Valentine, You're Cute as a Bug

Florence Fabricant , NY Times - Diner's Journal

Most Wanted: Sweet on Honey

April Hardwick, Cooking Light

Top Chocolate Shops In Philadelphia

Michelle Hein , CBS Philly

The Chocolate Factory - Interview Feature

Samantha Alman, Metropolis

Philly Chocolates Perfect as Last-Minute Valentine's Day Gifts

Michelle Mass, Philadelphia Style

Valentine's Day Gift Guide: John & Kira's Hand-Painted Chocolates

Specialty Food.com

These Hand-Painted Chocolates Are A Sweet Gift For Your Valentine

Megan Willet, Business Insider

Round-Up: The Best Chocolate to Stuff in Your Easter Basket

Amanda Waas, Parade Mag

Our 10 Favorite Chocolate Easter Eggs & Bunnies

Eleanor West, Food Republic

Sweet Treats for Halloween

Amanda Waas, Parade.com