

New trend takes the cake

by Jenna Temkin
 News Editor

When thinking of cupcakes, a toddler's birthday party comes to mind, not a trendy bakery in the middle of Lincoln Park. However, in the last year, bakeries specializing only in cupcakes have sprouted up in some of Chicago's trendiest neighborhoods. These don't simply offer the average vanilla cupcakes with sprinkles, though. These bakeries, and others outside of the city that have caught on to the trend, have taken these seemingly ordinary deserts to the next level.

Swirlz Cupcakes fits in nicely with the trendy Lincoln Park neighborhood, with modern interesting selection of cupcakes. The shop sells the standard Vanilla, Bittersweet Chocolate, Vanilla on Chocolate and Carrot every day, and supplements the selection with five daily as, Lemon Cranberry (sugar-free), Chocolate Grasshopper Mint (gluten-free) and Banana which opened four months ago, sets itself apart with gluten-free and sugar-free options, "surprise flavor of the day." One "surprise flavor," Lemon Twist, is disappointing. Like cupcakes, the cake part is moist, rich and flavorful, while the goopy, tasteless frosting is the \$3. Swirlz's standout is the Red Velvet cupcake with moist cake and rich cream cheese instead of the usual icing. Swirlz also uses one layer of cream cheese and another red layer, with sugar sprinkles to garnish for stylish decoration. In the end, Swirlz can't a bad frosting with sophisticated décor and cupcake presentation. Swirlz Cupcakes 705 W. Belden and can be reached at (773) 404-CAKE.

Don't be fooled by some of the most bakery only has a cupcake strays away still offers with the with banana o v e r l y like Vanilla, frosting is an extensive even include tasty as the

As a restaurant, and Café (3552 N. inside the bakery, lined with specialty goods, it's still hard to find the cupcake that is known as "The Cupcake." Unlike Swirlz Cupcakes and Cupcakes, Southport has simple Chocolate and Vanilla cupcakes, with the same vanilla buttercream icing. cake is light and almost spongy, but works well with the extremely sweet and dense the Chocolate is moister than the Vanilla, it could use more chocolate flavor. These have the perfect icing to cake proportions. Although the cupcake has a simple Southport sells decorative cupcake picks, sprinkles and icing to add some color. of variety, Southport has some of the best cupcakes, and proves that less fussy sometimes have the best taste. For more information call (773) 665-0100.

Cupcakes N' More, sandwiched in the middle of the Old Orchard food court, conventional cupcake. Although Cupcakes N' More has a straightforward Yellow, Chocolate, Carrot, Marble and Chocolate Chip cakes with vanilla and it's the least expensive for \$1.59 per cake. The cupcakes are small, though, and cupcake with chocolate icing isn't anything special. The cake is decent, but lacks The frosting is mounded on top and is almost reminiscent of pre-made frosting from a Betty More redeems itself with a Carrot cupcake. If offers the perfect proportion of frosting and cake, flavor, which is accented with a dash of cinnamon. The Chocolate cupcake, topped with frosting in frightening shades of neon blue and red, tastes how it looks. Tasteless frosting with the consistency of toothpaste ruins the great chocolate flavor of the cake. Cupcakes N' More opened two months ago and can be contacted at (847) 679-1490.

Although cupcakes have become the latest dessert trend, they aren't only offered in trendy neighborhoods with high prices. With a variety of flavors and locations, these bakeries give diners a new dessert option that was only previously available to small children.



décor and an Red Velvet, specials such Nutella. Swirlz, along with one 'all of Swirlz's barely worth frosting, frosting make up for is located at

its simple name. Cupcakes, located at creative cupcakes and presentations.

one table, but feels warm with homey display case and a wall painted with

from the ordinary with flavors like, Green Tea, Dreamsicle and Apple Pie, but classics such as Red Velvet and Chocolate, all for \$2. Cupcakes displays its creativity Banana Split cupcake. In this cake, a mix of chocolate and vanilla cake is topped frosting, nuts and a cherry. The cake and frosting, like most of their cupcakes, aren't sweet. The frosting is delicious, light and tastes surprisingly natural. Even with a classic Cupcakes sets itself apart with Very Vanilla. A tasty vanilla cake, with an intense vanilla paired with white metallic sugar spheres to add a crunch to the creamy cupcake. With menu that changes each week, Cupcakes caters to a wide variety of consumers, which dogs. Cupcakes' adorable mini dog-cakes, with names like Fido Fudge, look just as human treats. For more information call (866) 525-0817.

grocery and bakery, no one would Southport) offers some of the best in the midst of modern restaurant

it's still hard to find the cupcake that is

known as "The Cupcake." Unlike Swirlz Cupcakes and Cupcakes, Southport has simple Chocolate and Vanilla cupcakes, with the same vanilla buttercream icing. cake is light and almost spongy, but works well with the extremely sweet and dense the Chocolate is moister than the Vanilla, it could use more chocolate flavor. These have the perfect icing to cake proportions. Although the cupcake has a simple Southport sells decorative cupcake picks, sprinkles and icing to add some color. of variety, Southport has some of the best cupcakes, and proves that less fussy sometimes have the best taste. For more information call (773) 665-0100.

Cupcakes N' More, sandwiched in the middle of the Old Orchard food court, conventional cupcake. Although Cupcakes N' More has a straightforward Yellow, Chocolate, Carrot, Marble and Chocolate Chip cakes with vanilla and it's the least expensive for \$1.59 per cake. The cupcakes are small, though, and cupcake with chocolate icing isn't anything special. The cake is decent, but lacks The frosting is mounded on top and is almost reminiscent of pre-made frosting from a Betty More redeems itself with a Carrot cupcake. If offers the perfect proportion of frosting and cake, flavor, which is accented with a dash of cinnamon. The Chocolate cupcake, topped with frosting in frightening shades of neon blue and red, tastes how it looks. Tasteless frosting with the consistency of toothpaste ruins the great chocolate flavor of the cake. Cupcakes N' More opened two months ago and can be contacted at (847) 679-1490.

Although cupcakes have become the latest dessert trend, they aren't only offered in trendy neighborhoods with high prices. With a variety of flavors and locations, these bakeries give diners a new dessert option that was only previously available to small children.

613 W. Briar, has Cupcakes' small décor, that includes clouds. Cupcakes

know that Southport Grocery cupcakes for only \$2. Once tables and shelves

so esteemed it is a small selection of Southport's Vanilla frosting. Although large cupcakes presentation, Despite its lack cupcakes can

offers a more selection of chocolate frosting, the Chocolate Chip flavor and moistness. Crocker jar. Cupcakes N' and contains a great carrot