

## Special Gifts and Homemade Treats for a [Milk-Free] Mother's Day to Remember

Check your calendar, because Mother's Day is just around the corner, Sunday May 10th to be exact. Before you find yourself in a pickle, rushing out to purchase an over-priced last-minute bouquet of flowers, consider one of my suggestions. Whether your mom is vegan, dairy-free (for nursing a little one or for themselves), keeping kosher, or simply loves chocolate and homemade treats, I think you will find a winner among these ideas:

A Bouquet of "Milk" and Dark Chocolate ~ Premium Choclatiers is definitely my top pick this year for indulgence. I fell in love with their boxed truffles and adored the sweet sentiment of their hearts box, but it is hard to overlook the creativity and practicality of their chocolate bouquet of long stem roses. Mom will feel loved and spoiled with any of these confections, trust me. Another bonus: They run a dairy-free, nut-free facility ...

Sjaak's Chocolate Mother's Day Collection ~ Their website had me a bit confused as to which Mother's Day offerings were dairy-free / vegan and which weren't as not all that said vegan in the description were listed in the vegan section, and not all in the vegan section said vegan in the description. That said, drop them a quick email or phone call before ordering to verify. But if we are lucky, their beautiful Lavender Box w/ dark chocolate lavender truffles, chocolate mother's day card, and chocolate mother's day heart (filled with more chocolates!) are all vegan and dairy-free.

Liz Lovely's Mother's Day Sampler ~ Boy, this topic is really making me wish I was a mother to someone, so that I could get one of these awesome gifts! Liz Lovely is without a doubt one of the most awesome sweets companies on the planet. No seriously. Their cookies are jumbo sized and unreal, and they offer chocolate-covered treats to round out the mix. Plus, all is vegan in Liz's world. The Mother's Day sampler is an awesome assortment (that includes free shipping), though you can choose from a number of gift samplers should that one not be the perfect fit for your mom.

Divvies Free Cookies for Mom Offer ~ All orders from now through Mother's Day (2009) will include a complimentary package of one dozen Divvies cookies. Yes, 12 free bakery cookies! The best part is, you don't even have to ask (no coupon code required), they will just automatically throw them in. Hard to beat. Divvies also runs a vegan, allergy-friendly facility filled with cupcakes, candy, gourmet popcorn, and of course, cookies.

Mother's Day Recipes (circa 2008) ~ Last year I created a list of delicious special diet recipes for treating mom. Check them out for some more inspiration!

More Mother's Day Recipe Ideas (2009 update) ~ A new year means 365 more days to discover great recipes. So in addition to those suggestions via the link above (from last year's recipe picks, which are of course still useful), I have found a few others I would love to recommend as a special treat for your mom:

Bryanna's Lower Fat S'more Brownies - For those chocolate-loving moms with a love for nostalgia and an eye on their waistline. Bryanna's delights are always vegan too, bonus!

Sinful Cinnamon-Apple Sauté - Top a stack of pancakes or a homemade waffle (dairy-free, vegan, gluten-free, whatever your pleasure) with these delicious apples and their sweet syrup for a wonderful breakfast in bed treat.

Cornmeal and Cranberry Pancakes - Speaking of pancakes, this twist on the original makes cornmeal the star of the show, while still maintaining that fluffy pancake result. You can of course substitute the cranberries for your berry of choice.

Sweet Potato Truffles - Truly creative and truly delicious. These were created as a Valentine's day recipe, but isn't mom's day just an extension of this loving holiday?

Strawberry Snack Cake - A delicious way to celebrate the fact that mother's day and strawberry season perfectly coincide.

Double-the-Cinnamon Rolls - Prepare these babies the night before mother's day and bake them up in the morning ... both the scent of these baking and the resulting soft and tender pastries will start your mom's day off right. Did I mention these are vegan?

Maple Cupcakes w/ Maple Buttercream Frosting - Who doesn't love cupcakes? Since they are wheat-free (spelt) and use only maple syrup for sweetening, you may be able to serve them up as a before noon delight. Maybe. Okay, if it is still morning, you may want to hold the frosting.

Almond Applesauce Bread - A naturally sugar-free quick bread for moms who love a simple breakfast of delicious homemade bread with jam or honey.

Chocolate Thrill Ice Cream - How about treating mom to a decadent ice cream sundae with your own handmade ice cream ... rich with coconut milk and cocoa I might add.

Peanut Butter & Chips Granola - There is something so incredible (and incredibly easy) about home-baked granola. Going above and beyond in the indulgence category, this one boasts a chocolate and peanut butter surprise for active moms with a sweet tooth.

Strawberry Topped Vegan Lemon Mini-Cupcakes - Created specifically for (a) mom. This post actually suggests a trio of mini-cupcake treats.

Peanut Butter Pretzel Chocolate Hearts - These are just plain fun to make, even with kids. You can go sans pretzels too, rolling the filling into balls to make truffle shapes. The filling is very easy to work with.