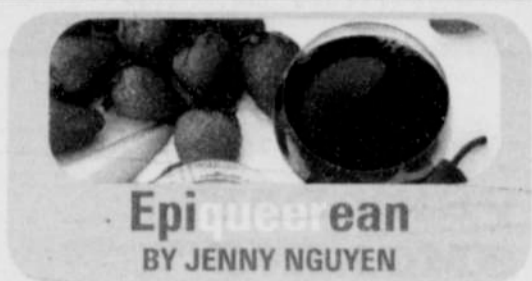


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Epi queerean
BY JENNY NGUYEN

Get Baked, Part Two: Show Me the Dough

My last installment highlighted places to up your insulin. This time it's savory starches that'll keep you goin' till the next carbo-loading. With hundreds of bakeries from corner to corner of our fine culinary city, it was difficult to narrow it down. There are, however, three lesser-known places I've visited repeatedly throughout the past year that truly leavened my reign on grain. Enjoy!


Madrona Hill Café And Bakery • 5937 N. Greeley Ave.

This petite cafe on the corner of Ainsworth and Greeley is an oasis of yeast, butter and sugar in a desolate strip of traffic and a quiet recess from the popular lunch bunch just down the road on Killingsworth. Upon entering, you'll notice the décor with gentle traces of local art and handwritten scrawls. The panini are delightful and filling with great attention to detail, such as homemade aioli and pickled veggies. The baguettes are especially good here—an unmistakable thin, crisp crust followed by a cottonball center. They're irresistibly French, as is the majestic and gracious owner. You will feel right at home here, especially if you have any children. (*Madrona* is French for mother.) Tots are welcome and are frequently found playing in the back. Enjoy any one of Madrona's delicious breads and you, too, will be as happy as a li'l kid.

Delphina's Bakery • 4636 N.E. 42nd Ave.

Housed in a giant warehouse, Delphina's is intimidating at first. But situated in one corner by the parking lot is a tiny shop with tables, chairs and even an inviting futon. A case filled with bagels, tarts, scones and cinnamon rolls begs my attention, but unfortunately I'm on a mission. So I order a breakfast sandwich: tomato, avocado and cheddar on sourdough. The spike of fresh sourdough heightens the otherwise dull sandwich. But what I take home is where this family-run business stole the show: The olive ciabatta, rosemary boule and cardamom brioche made me feel like I had gone to Bread Heaven. Low on dough? Check out the back rack, where day-old bread is practically free.

Pearl Bakery • 102 N.W. Ninth Ave.

Located in the infantile Pearl District, this bakery has it all: perfect artisan breads, great coffee and a location that burns a hole in your wallet just looking at it. Seating is sparse for the wide-open patisserie, but leaning (and gawking) at the window bar in European fashion is highly encouraged. The panini are outstanding though pricey, but the loaves are exceptional in quality and flavor. Basically, for a bread-loving, people-watching, on-your-feet cafe experience, PB is the place to be. Compulsive buyers beware: Though your eyes will swell with the abundant baked goods it has to offer, your pocketbook will be begging for mercy. 

JENNY NGUYEN is going public next month—to the public markets, that is. Trek local farmers markets with yours truly by contacting epiqueerean@comcast.net.

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