

For a more individual drink try this one!

PEPPERMINT STICK MARTINI

1 peppermint stick, crushed

1 1/2 ounces vodka

1 ounce peppermint schnapps

1 ounce Triple Sec

Ice

1 small candy cane

Use crumbled mint bits on the rim, then combine the vodka, schnapps, Triple Sec and ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake and strain the mix into the martini glass and garnish with the candy cane.



Alternately, if you're really lazy, just make some hot chocolate and hang a cane on the rim of the coffee cup until it melts into the warm chocolate.

DESSERT TABLE Party guests love variety, and a table of tiny desserts can give you the opportunity to throw in some handmade creations while not feeling bad about filling the bulk of it with store bought goodness. Luckily, in this foodie town there are a ton of local bakers and candy makers that will make the whole table look fancy and homemade. Try mini-cupcakes from Cupcake Jones, traditional candy such as peppermint bark from Willamette Valley Confectionary (a handmade candy company run by our own A&E editor Ken Hoyt), or the more traditional holiday petit fours and ribbon candy from the decidedly not-Northwest, but still delicious, Swiss Colony. That last one's part of my bi-coastal family tradition. §

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