



Warren Becker, Head Baker/Owner

Blue Collar Baking Company

Blue Collar Baking's Mt. Hood Bundt Cake

KITCHEN INSPIRATION? My Mom definitely was the one who inspired me. For better or for not, Mom always equated baked goods with love. If things were a little rough around the house I'd find an extra baked treat in my school lunch box.

FAVORITE INGREDIENT? Vanilla. Real vanilla is the only kind I use. It's almost like a booster; it brings out the other ingredients. When I get stressed out at the bakery, it's not uncommon for me to open a bottle of vanilla and take a big whiff.

FAVORITE HOLIDAY? Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because it doesn't involve the pressure of gift giving. There isn't all that expectation about did I get the right gift, will I get a gift, do I have to put on a fake smile. It truly is about people gathering, breaking bread, relaxing and just being appreciative of what and who is in front of them. The whole country can get around it; it's not a religious holiday. You don't have to worry about being Muslim, Jewish or Christian.

FAVORITE HOLIDAY MEMORY? One of my favorite memories with Art (Kranz, his late partner) is that every year we would take my truck and go get a Christmas tree. We looked together to find the perfect tree on a crisp winter night. We'd bring it in to the house.

On the first night we'd cuddle on the couch while the tree adapted. It would have no ornaments on it. The house would fill up with that evergreen smell. It was just beautiful. I haven't had a real tree since he passed. I haven't forsaken Christmas at all, but it's still a work in progress for me to reclaim Christmas. \$

319 SW Pine Street, Portland

503-227-3249

The detailed recipes for this dish can be found at our website. Justout.com/recipes

