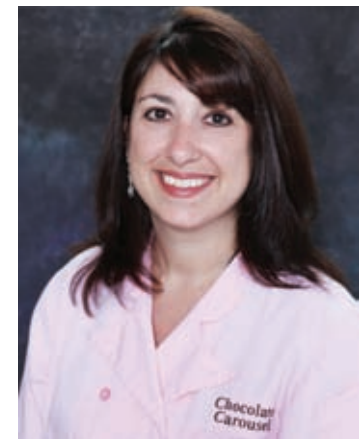


## Do Me A 'Favor'! Edible Treats Make a Sweet Send-Off for Guests



WRITTEN BY LISA PORADA, OWNER AND CAKE DESIGNER OF CHOCOLATE CAROUSEL, an old-fashioned bakery and sweet shop featuring homemade specialty cakes for all occasions, desserts, hand-dipped chocolates and novelties located in Wall, NJ

At Chocolate Carousel, we believe that even if you are trying to be original, you can get creative with your sweet treat and give a gift that will be both remembered and enjoyed!

Everyone loves chocolate making it the perfect choice to say "thank you" to your guests. There are so many different ways to present chocolate that are fun and unique. Think about small personalized containers like boxes or monogrammed pouches containing a few carefully selected pieces of fine chocolate.

*One sure way to make your favor memorable and unique is to personalize it.*

Think about items such as personalized chocolate bars, chocolate lollipops with your photo on them, or edible picture frames with a special totally edible photo inside. Additionally, I have had customers choose to use a treat that is special to them and convert it into a wedding favor, like chocolate dipping and monogramming oreos or peanut butter cups.

A classic favor option which can be used as a favor for children's parties as well as elegant affairs such as showers and weddings is the Chocolate Lollipop. These pops are very versatile because they can be made in a variety of shapes and sizes to coordinate with specific party themes. They can be made in milk, white or dark chocolate as well as a variety of coordinating colors. Lollipops can also be very elegant, like a heart shaped pop embossed with a couples initials and wedding date.

There is nothing tastier than a gourmet chocolate covered pretzel and these sweet, salty twists make a perfect favor choice. Whether you choose to present guests with a rod or a twist, pretzels can be dipped in chocolate and a variety of toppings such as coconut, chocolate chips or sprinkles and beautifully wrapped into a delicious gift. Toppings are easily coordinated with party themes or colors and can include creative tags that read "we tied the knot"!

If you would like to branch out beyond chocolate, cookies are a perfect little thank you for any type of celebration. Think outside the box when thinking about flavors here. Traditional flavors like chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin or sugar are classic, but cookies in flavors like pumpkin or gingersnap may be just perfect for a fall themed event. Like chocolates, cookies too can be monogrammed and iced in coordinating party colors. They can be cut into novel shapes that represent the party theme. They can be packaged in pretty boxes and bags and are often a welcome reminder of the party with the next morning's coffee.

One of my favorite party favor ideas is currently very popular. That is the cupcake favor. Today cup-

cakes are so chic and can be made in so many different flavors, styles and colors that they are easy to match with practically any party theme, style or color. They can be individually boxed or packaged so that guests can enjoy them in the days following your event. At Chocolate Carousel, we even stuff our cupcakes with a variety of yummy flavors that can easily coordinate with the party's style. As a wedding favor, the cupcakes can be made in a coordinating flavor to the wedding cake...it's like sending each guest home with a slice of wedding cake.

Sweet treats can be a less expensive trinket option so they can be paired with socially conscious favors like donations for a particular charity or cause. No matter what type of sweet treat you decide to use as your favor, remember to personalize it in some way, with your photo,

monogram, custom label or printed ribbon. This will give your favor a finished look and allow you to leave your guests with a message of thanks. Edible favors can be so creative and unique that no matter which route you decide to go your guests will enjoy them right to the very last bite! Edible favors are the best way to end your special day on a sweet note!

*Enjoy, and remember, Life's Short ... Eat Dessert First!*

### Customer Testimonial:

*Lisa totally thinks outside the box when it comes to your cake. She really takes your personality into account! We did a cupcake tower and we wanted the traditional cake cutting for the top tier. My husband and I are big ice cream fans and Lisa totally took that idea and ran with it. We loved our cupcakes and cake and will be ordering from Lisa again very soon.*

*Lisa also did our black & white cookies that we were using for our escort cards/favors. She took the time to bag them and put our seating tags on them for us. She even did the ribbon in our accent color. The black & white cookies were so fresh and looked so cool.*

*I have to say Chocolate Carousel is one of my favorite vendors and so easy to work with!*

Chocolate Carousel, Old-Fashioned Bakery and Sweet Shop  
732-280-0606  
www.chocolatecarousel.com

### Life's Short...

*Eat Dessert First!*

### Old-Fashioned Bakery & Sweet Shop

Specialty Cakes  
Wedding Cakes  
Dessert Tonight  
Gourmet Stuffed Cupcakes  
Pastries & Pies  
Cookies  
Hand-dipped Chocolate  
Novelty Candy  
Gifts/Gift Baskets  
Favors  
Chocolate Fountain

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Colfax Plaza in Wall NJ  
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The tradition of giving away a small gift of appreciation to wedding or party guests dates back many years to a time where the gifts might include sugar cubes and sweet treats like sugared almonds or chocolates.

Over time these "favors" as they became known evolved into a diverse array of items including candles, picture frames, vases and more. However, it is clear that the practice of presenting your guests with sweet treats is one that is both appreciated and a sure success.



Chocolate Carousel is a family owned and operated specialty dessert shop located in Wall NJ.