

Three Bay Area Food Items Land on Oprah's Coveted 'Favorite Things' List for 2017



When Oprah Winfrey names her "favorite things" it seems like she certainly means it. Three local food items have made Oprah's Favorite Things list for 2017, with one bakery having the distinction of making it onto the list for two years in a row.

That foodie delight of Winfrey's heart? Model Bakery's English muffins from Napa.

The former talk show host has certainly talked up the muffins since she's discovered them. After placing them on her 2016 "Favorite Things" list she also called the fluffy muffins her "greatest extravagance" in an interview earlier this year.

Winfrey is also known for taking them with her wherever she travels, according to Model Bakery owner Karen Mitchell.

"We send them to her on sets, and she passes them out to other people," Mitchell said via phone to SFGATE. "I heard Reese Witherspoon on one of the late night shows talking about 'these muffins that Oprah drags around.' ... They've caught on with a lot of people and we ship them all over the country."

Winfrey confirmed that in her writeup of the muffins for this year's list, saying, "I've given away hundreds of these crunchy yet fluffy artisanal English muffins from Napa just to say 'happy Sunday.' I travel with them and even brought a batch to the set of 'A Wrinkle in Time.'"

Preserves from Clif Family in St. Helena also got a nod from Winfrey on this year's list. The peach preserves landed on her radar via a special English muffin-preserve gift set from Model Bakery and the business confirmed she's been ordering from them throughout the year.

"We were aware that the preserves were under consideration," said Clif Family General Manager Linzi Gay. "It was a very exciting process. Everyone at Clif Family was crossing our fingers we would be selected."