



Animas Chocolate & Coffee Company serves up a full menu of chocolates, coffees, hot chocolates, wines, cocktails and more. / Photos provided by Animas Chocolate & Coffee Company.

We all have bad days. Sometimes we have bad weeks. Every once in a while, everyone around you, probably including yourself, has a bad month, and everyone at the same time is stomping around, huffing and puffing, and there's no stopping it. Or that's how it was before the invention of chocolate, coffee, and cocktails.

This feel-good trifecta is what ended a long-running bad mood last Monday in my office. My coworkers were all walking around with dark circles under their eyes, cursing and cussing, throwing pens and pencils, and complaining about everything. Yes, I was one of them, too. We were all generally unpleasant people and couldn't get ourselves together. That is, until our fearless boss opened up her wallet, took out an Animas Chocolate & Coffee Company gift card, and shook it in the air.

"That's it!" she roared. "We're going out!"

So we turned off our computers, put on our jackets, and went downtown to Animas Chocolate & Coffee Company.

I had previously been inside the local, downtown shop a few times to get gifts for my friends and family, but I'd never really taken the time to sit down and soak it all in. The store's interior is beautiful. High ceilings with big windows in the front give it an airy and elegant vibe, but warm, cozy couches in the back also make it feel very inviting. Along one side, the walls are lined with shelves stacked with chocolate, locally roasted coffee, and gifts, while the truffle case and the adjacent coffee bar entice you in a "come hither" sort of way. Which we did.

We first lined up to the truffle case, which contained rows of immaculate truffles: a full menu of ganaches with dark chocolate, milk chocolate, single-origin cacao, and honey bourbon-infused nuggets of heaven—and each one is hand-crafted on-site. We carefully chose a handful of those little delicacies before heading to the coffee bar, and that's when we had our biggest surprise of the day: the coffee bar is not just coffee!

Yes, there are a variety of crafted coffee beverages for the caffeinated connoisseur, but there is also a selection of drinking chocolates (that means hot chocolate, but way better) as well as—here's the surprise—a new bar menu featuring wine, beer, cocktails, and spirits. Needless to say, this definitely raised our spirits.



A few mood-lifting beverages later, and we still hadn't seen or experienced it all. For, in the back of the store, there was both a live Desert Sun Coffee tasting happening and chocolatiers making chocolate—both of which we were able to view, ask a couple questions of, and salivate over before we had to pack up, buy the obligatory chocolate-covered potato chips (we all need these in our lives), and head back to the office for a happier, albeit slightly less productive, rest of the work day.

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Visit their website to see future events, find out about hosting private parties, and more!

www.animaschocolatecompany.com

