

Isla Vista's Sweets Sleuth

A Guide to IV's Rare Sweet Treats

WORDS // DANNY POGUE

ILLUSTRATION + DESIGN // DAN LAGRANGE

GRANDMA WAS NAPPING. Now was not the time to watch TV or play video games—her legendary peanut butter Hershey's Kiss cookies had gone missing from their normal hiding spot. I crawled under the sofa, rearranged the toiletries under the sink, and dug through the blanket drawer in the living room to no avail. She knew there was no honor code when it came to her baked goods; hiding them was the only way they could last for more than a day with me hanging around. After an hour and a half, I began to give up hope and looked up to ask for help from a higher power. "You sly dog, Granny," I thought to myself as I noticed the transparent plastic of the blue Tupperware



peeking ever so slightly over the top of the armoire.

This is not a childhood story. This was last week. My pursuit of high-caliber sweets is neverending; I will find them, and I will eat them. When I first landed in Isla Vista, I was massively underwhelmed by the sugary treat scene. While generic name-brand candies, drinks, and pastries were in abundance—and could even be delivered to my door—they didn't quite hit the spot. To truly satiate my cravings, I needed to find the relatively unknown items that you wouldn't think to buy at first glance. After years of looking, I found what I was looking for, and I shall now pass this knowledge on to the next glucose-loving generation. Rejoice!

My personal favorite sweet treat hides in plain sight in the aisles of IV market. It comes in an unassuming green box with the somewhat familiar face of an old man smack dab in the center. You may remember him as that actor from that one movie your film friend made you watch: Paul Newman. You may be thinking, "Why would I buy this old guy's Oreo knockoffs?" Well, for starters, don't call people old. That's rude. Secondly, these possess far more substance and nuance than your average sandwich cookie. It is essential to get the Hint-O-Mint flavor as well. The only way to describe the feeling of that first bite is as if the cool ocean mist flowed through a luscious garden of cocoa, vanilla, and



mint plants before delicately landing upon your taste buds. While the high price tag may make you think twice, you should know that the company donates all of its profits to charity, which is yet another reason to indulge in this morsel. Don't forget milk!

Let me paint another picture for you. It's a warm spring night in a mythical marble palace, and a forest spirit happily dances into your throne room holding a vibrant, yellow-orange flower. You are reclined and watching a theater performance as the spirit slowly tilts the flower, allowing the nectar to drip into your open mouth, flooding your senses with pure sunshine. This is what it's like to drink Little Jasmine White Peach Black Tea, located right by the register at the Isla Vista Co-op. It may be too sweet for some, but for sweet treat lovers, it's perfect.



Lastly, a shoutout must be given to IV Drip, the only legitimate baked goods shop in Isla Vista. They know how to make a bona fide cookiewich, with warmed cookies melting the ice cream of your choice. There's a time limit to scarf this treat down, but it's well worth it, and afterwards you'll want to sit by a fire and listen to an old story from a friendly bear who tucks you into a Sleep Number bed. These are the must-haves of Isla Vista sweet treats. I'm going into retirement, kid, but there may be more out there. So keep following the clues and trust in your gut—Isla Vista's a hard nut to crack. ☑