speak of the devil

Ingredient of the Year

Bacon All Day Long

on the side of a pancake platter is sooo 2011. Go hog wild, and get the "candy of meat" in a scone, as a jam, or blended with artisanal ice cream. Your doc may not approve, but this food trend is still smoking hot.

-LEEANNE JONES



Breakfast

Scone Sideboard, Danville

Inside this savory scone are thickcut chunks of applewood-smoked bacon and aged white cheddar.

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Cocktail District, Oakland

At brunch, order the Breakfast of Champions: baconinfused bourbon, maple syrup, and egg whites.

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Sweet Treat

Truffle Sôcôla, Oakland

The Notorious H.O.G. is a smoked bacon and Guittard chocolate truffle garnished with chipotle sea salt.

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Soda Powell's Sweet Shoppe, Lafayette

Bacon soda is only for the brave (it reminded us of liquid smoke), but there are bacon lollipops, jelly beans, gum, and mints here, too.

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Popcorn Pavé, Berkeley

Sweet and savory kettle corn tossed with maple syrup and candied Prather Ranch bacon. Order online at pavecon sultingsf.com.

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Lunch

Hot Dog Havana, Walnut Creek

New on the menu: a bacon-wrapped Kobe beef hot dog with mango salsa and guava chipotle BBQ sauce.

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Mochi FuseBox, Oakland

Bacon-wrapped rice cake brushed with miso butter and served with Korean mustard and crunchy pickled mustard seeds.

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Happy Hour

Cocktail Sauced, Livermore

Try a bacon old fashioned: baconinfused Jack Daniels, with muddled orange peel, maple syrup, and bitters and bacon garnish.

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Beer Ale Industries, Concord

On tap a few times a year, the Dry Hogged English brown is aged in a "bacon-ized" bourbon barrel (leftover bourbon is infused with bacon before the beer is added).

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Dinner

Mac and Cheese Jack's, Pleasant Hill

Bits of bacon are mixed into a bowl of noodles smothered in Asiago, mild and sharp cheddar, and mozzarella

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Jam Disco Volante, Oakland

Why settle for a regular burger when you can get one topped with aged white cheddar, pickled pepper mayo, and bacon iam.

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Dessert

Ice Cream Ici, Berkeley

Among its rotating flavors is an ice cream with maple syrup and pieces of bacon brittle. Look for less frequent rosemary or peach bacon flavors, too.

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Cupcake Let 'Em Eat Cake, Livermore

Cupcake special Breakfast for Dessert is a sweet maple-and-bacon cake topped with maple buttercream and salty bacon crumbles.

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Key: Oink-o-meter

From yummy (but maybe a little safe) to totally baco-crazy, we rate the inventiveness of these eats.

This little piggy is happy: ••••• It's why we bring home the bacon: •••• Living high off the hog now: •••• Sweatin' like a pig: •••• Squeeeeaaal!: ••••