

Enjoy taste of Italy at the Sweet Boutique

Strictly Savings



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Pastry chef and owner Anthony Macri of Sweet Boutique in Woodbridge.

What a week!

We have a new pope, Easter's on the horizon, and I have some mighty sweet deals for you this week:

SWEET BOUTIQUE: The Irish have St. Patrick — Italians have St. Joe, or San Giuseppe, husband of Mary the mother of Jesus.

San Giuseppe is this Tuesday, and one sweet treat created in his honour isn't a hot cross bun but a "zeppole" — a traditional doughnut-shaped Italian pastry that just brims with such fillings as ricotta or custard cream in a lovely puff pastry.

You can find delicious zeppoles all over town and one place that specializes in these, along with other sweet goodies, is the famous Sweet Boutique in Woodbridge.

I popped in to say "Hello" to pastry chef and owner Anthony Macri, who, along with family and staff, creates all the goodies on display.

I met Macri before he married — now he's dad to three wee little ones, which may explain how he stays slim while creating all these delicious desserts.

His professional background includes George Brown and McCalls before heading out to Italy to study with some of the world's best pastry chefs.

Thanks to this, Sweet Boutique offers a plethora of traditional cakes, pastries, cookies and so much more (think Easter everyone!) that will transport you to an authentic Italian experience with just one bite.

"Come into Sweet Boutique and you become part of the family," Macri says with a sweet smile.

SWEET BOUTIQUE, 471 Jevlan Dr., Woodbridge (off Weston Rd., north of Hwy. 7). Open seven days a week; 905-851-8388; Sweetboutique.ca. Call for holiday hours.

FIFTH ST. NUT-FREE BAKERY: Well, since becoming a dad, Anthony Macri found he wanted to treat the students where his children went to school with plenty of good, wholesome treats, “but I also wanted to respect the peanut allergy concerns,” Macri said. What to do? Create a special nut-free bakery directly across from his famous Sweet Boutique.

“Most daycares and Montessori schools do not allow cakes and/or cupcakes to be brought in unless they’re 100% nut-free, made in a nut-free facility. Fifth St. Cakes produce natural, delicious and safe products and everything is 100% nut- and tree-nut free.” But not just for kids, everything from weddings to showers to special occasions, the cakes are beautiful, the cookies little works of art. I loved the cupcakes for their colourful and creative flair.

FIFTH ST. CAKES: 457 Jevlan Dr., Unit 4, Woodbridge; 905-264-0669; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Monday and Sunday; Fifthstcakes.com

UNIVERSAL BRANDS WAREHOUSE SALE: The big Universal Brands March Break sale is now on at the International Centre and it’s one of those sales featuring all sorts of companies under one roof, with deals on clothing to cosmetics, toiletries to jewelry, home decor and more.

Savings of up to 75% depending on the brand.

UNIVERSAL BRANDS WAREHOUSE SALE: Thursday-Sunday; International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Hall 6; Tuesday-Friday, 10 am.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saleevent.ca.

GARVEY’S FINE MEN’S WEAR SALE: Danbury liquidators is selling the items from Garvey’s Fine Men’s Wear in Oakville — fabulous, quality wear with prices from 50% to 70% off retail.

Look for deals on everything from suits to sports jackets, blazers to dress pants, sports shirts and so much more.

Name brands include Canali, Tommy Bahama, Bugatti, Cole Haan and more.

The sale is on for the next little while.

GARVEY’S FINE MEN’S WEAR LIQUIDATION SALE UNDER DANBURY: 183 Lakeshore Blvd. E., Oakville; Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; Danburysales.com.

JEAN MACHINE MARCH-BREAK WAREHOUSE SALE: You want to head out to this amazing sale for men and women, where you’ll find plenty of deals on all your favourite jeans, jackets, shirts, accessories and more — with prices 50%-90% off retail.

Name brands include Bench, Silver, Guess, Second Yoga, Buffalo, Jack and Jones, Lucky 7 and more.

There’s even Bench Now for toddlers!

JEAN MACHINE MARCH-BREAK WAREHOUSE SALE: Thursday-Sunday; 4069 Gordon Baker Rd., Scarborough; Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

MATTEL TOY OUTLET: Mattel’s having its famous blowout sale at its Mississauga location, and here’s your chance to save up to 50% off a fine selection of goods by Mattel and Fisher-Price. (Some exceptions may apply.) Check dates carefully.

MATTEL TOY OUTLET, 6155 Freemont Blvd., Mississauga; 905-501-5147; March 14-17, 22-24, 28-30; Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; open Easter Thursday, 10 am.-5 p.m.

LINDT MIDNIGHT MADNESS: This is one sale you’ll want to stay up for — visit any one of the Lindt outlet boutiques Friday between 8 p.m. and midnight and save big on the Midnight Madness specials on Easter chocolate.