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SHOP GIRL: Dream a Raspberry Dream

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Heidi Dean | 0 comments

Few things can stop me in my tracks quite like the sight of a case full of fancy European pastries in tidy rows. The colors, the textures, and the thought of the amount of work that went into them dazzle me into a slack-jawed reverie. But then I come to, and begin to ponder which one to try.

Pastries of Denmark offers a rainbow of pastry options including nearly a dozen kinds of petit fours, and a range of larger pastries such as Napoleons, cheesecake slices and fruit tortes. The decision can be a tough one, but the counter staff is happy to help you make your selection. You'll be in good company, too - these treats are enjoyed at local venues such as Busch Stadium and Café Napoli.

Chef/owner Kristian Vesth steered me toward the Raspberry Dream, a fluffy concoction built on a disc of

chocolate-painted *paté sucré* ringed with baked Danish marzipan. The crowning glory is the cluster of fresh raspberries that stud the small mountain of pastry cream, which is made from house-made custard blended with whipped cream.

Eating something this elaborate is pure fun, as every component is wonderful on its own, but even better taken in combination. Taking the time to fully enjoy the textures and flavors is half the point (the other half being the triumph of id over ego). And no matter which pastry you choose, you're sure to enjoy the entirety of the experience.

Pastries of Denmark's Raspberry Dream: \$4.99 each; petit fours \$1.29 each; other pastries range from \$1.59 to \$3.99 apiece

Pastries of Denmark, 12613 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, 314.469.7879, pastriesofdenmark.com

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