

Ever had a chocolate massage? You can try one (or a facial) at this garden event



The last time you got a chocolate facial was probably when you were a toddler and smeared melted ice cream all over your face.

This weekend, you can do it again in a much better way, at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Chocolate Garden.

From Friday through Sunday Jan. 24-26, the 83-acre Fairchild transforms into Chocolate Garden and will live, breathe and serve up all things chocolate for your learning, faciaing and eating pleasure.

The weekend kicks off Friday, Jan. 24, with "Fete du Chocolate," an exclusive multi-course seated dinner catered by La Basque Catering with dessert by Pastry Chef Hedy Goldsmith. Diners will sample such dishes as croquettes with pulled pork, pimento and Mexican cacao, chocolate demi short ribs and cocoa linguine

One of the event's highlights: A chocolate spa, where you can get chocolate hand massages (with a chocolate sea salt scrub) and mini facials (with chocolate cleansers and face masks). You can also make your own chocolate scrub at the DIY Beauty Bar.



You can still stroll the grounds this weekend - and you'll need to, after you sample all those sweets.

For the record, there are regular massages and reflexology, too. Because some people would rather ingest their chocolate, and we don't blame them.

You can order milkshakes from Whip'n Dip or sample pairings of sweets and spirits at the Mixology lab. You can create your own chocolate spin art or watch presentations from pastry chefs and chocolatiers at The Garden Kitchen.

And because you're at a garden, you can buy cacao trees and ice cream banana plants - even chocolate orchids.



Save room for dessert (wait - it's all dessert).

CHOCOLATE GARDEN

Where: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables

When: Jan. 24-26

Admission: Free to Garden members; \$25 nonmembers, \$18 seniors 65 and up; \$12 for kids 6-7; under 6 free. Tickets at www.fairchildgarden.org; **Fete du Chocolate dinner** is \$185; [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).