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With the stone fruit season about to wrap, what better time for peach pie?

Oh, who are we kidding? With desserts as tasty as those from Simply Pies, anytime is a good time for pie.

The Santa Barbara bakery just added gluten-free and sugar-free alternatives. But with its flaky, golden, hand-scalloped crust and its generous slices of juicy peaches, the only thing you might think is missing from this gluten-free, sugar-free pie is a cup of coffee.



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Peach pies will be available for a couple more weeks. Other flavors include mixed berry, blueberry, blackberry, seasonal fruit, strawberry rhubarb, lemon dream, coconut cream, chocolate cream, pumpkin and pecan.

The pies come in gluten-free, sugar-free or both, in addition to regular. There is also a vegan option.

"We've had so many requests for it," says Hana Miller, who co-owns Simply Pies with fellow baker Nancy Blau, of the new alternatives. "We've been getting great reviews on it, even by people who choose to eat that way."

The trick was perfecting the crust so it stays flaky and tender.

"It's like Grandma's!" is one of the comments from customers. "It's the taste they remember as a child."

"It makes us happy to hear it," says Ms. Miller, adding that customers often can't taste the difference. "That's what we tried to do."

Available in "pie-lets," 6 inches or 12 inches, the regular and sugar-free pies vary from \$3.50 to \$21.99. The gluten-free pies are \$2 extra per dozen "pie-lets" and for a 9-incher, and \$1 more for a 6-incher. There are also Take & Bake versions.

Simply Pies baked goods can be ordered by phone at 715-3485 or e-mail at pies@simplypiessb.com. Pickup is available as well as delivery (for a fee). The bakery also just added retail hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, 2611 De la Vina St. Customers can buy whole pies or slices, although the special dietary pies must be ordered in advance.

The bakery also offers tarts, quiches and cheesecakes (gluten-free available on quiches and cheesecakes).