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Heat miser

By [Ann Martin Rolke](#)

While I'd love to be telling you all about the wonderful **local blueberries**, we're still in a **winter holding pattern** of late. I'm more inclined to seek out soup and coffee.

So even if you feel like eating strawberry shortcake, you might stick to the pho a bit longer. Actually, my favorite **hot Vietnamese treat** is **bun** (a.k.a. "charbroiled meat over vermicelli") at **Pho Bac Hoa Viet** (Folsom, Davis and Sac). I drench the noodles in the sweet-sour sauce and drizzle hoisin over the meat. It's a belly full for \$6.50.

For a hot drink, I always like **Temple Fine Coffee and Tea's** lattes with the beautiful foam designs, but **Ginger Elizabeth Chocolates** has the hot-chocolate market cornered. Try her **Oaxacan version**, which is aromatic with cinnamon and slightly zingy spices.

I've been hankering for a **true Texas chili** (that is, no beans), but I may have to have my own Texan make it. We'll use some pork shoulder from **St. John Family Farm** (Orland) and dried chilies from last summer's garden. That should keep me warm this summer!