



**a)** Hollie Chamberlain, owner of Carlsbad Cookie Company, and her dog, Heathie, the company's official mascot; **b)** the cookies can be ordered in boxes for gift giving.



**c)** the summer shortbread flavor: blueberry with lemon curd filling and a hint of thyme; **d)** the company specializes in unique filled shortbread cookies (photos courtesy of Carlsbad Cookie Company).

## Shortbread Goes Big

Written by Tim Grenda

From the time she was a child growing up in Phoenix, one thing has made Hollie Chamberlain feel better.

“Ever since I was tall enough to reach the counter, I always enjoyed baking,” says Chamberlain, a Carlsbad resident since 1998. “No matter what else I was doing, baking was always my hobby.”

In 2016, after 18 years as a marketing/business development manager for a French luxury goods company managing a portfolio of wine and spirits, Chamberlain realized she wanted to go in a different direction and decided to turn her lifelong hobby into a career as a baker. “Shortbread—that’s the one thing I’ve made from when I was a kid.”

The result is the Carlsbad Cookie Company, an online bakery specializing in handcrafted shortbread cookies. The company is based on its trademarked farm-to-bakery philosophy—using locally grown and sourced ingredients in artisanal cookies that look just as good as they taste. Chamberlain has incorporated many Carlsbad touches into her baked goods, from the strawberry preserves made from local berries to the look of the cookies, which is a nod to the town’s ranunculus flower fields.

The classic shortbread cookie is flaky and buttery, while tasty varia-

tions such as lemon zest with lemon glaze and double dark chocolate with cherries and toasted California almonds satisfy even the sweetest cravings.

Still, it is the stuffed shortbreads that help set Chamberlain’s brand apart, their richness elevating basic shortbread to a higher calling. The dark chocolate, caramel-filled shortbread with a hint of sea salt is a best seller, Chamberlain says.

Even those without a sweet tooth can enjoy the cookies. In the fall, Chamberlain plans to add a line of savory cookies, with flavors such as blue cheese shortbread with black pepper and fig preserves, and parmesan cheese with olives. They can be paired with sparkling wine, still wine and whiskey, and are a perfect accompaniment to charcuterie plates.

Cookie orders, including memberships in the Cookie Club, can be placed via phone at 760.824.3030 or online at [carlsbadcookiecompany.com](http://carlsbadcookiecompany.com) and either shipped directly or delivered to local sites. Custom orders for corporate gifts, special events and more are also available.