

You have to try the fudge and gelato at Roly's English Fudge in Kennebunkport

It's not your typical fudge.

Bring your taste buds to Roly's English Fudge in Kennebunkport and you'll walk out with a smile — along with a pound or more of fudge, a serving of gelato or sorbetto and a bag of pralines.

This is real good stuff, unlike any ordinary fudge you have tasted before. Even if you don't think you like fudge, you need to try this. Roly's English Fudge is firm yet crumbly, not hard or sticky. It literally melts in your mouth and comes in a variety of tasty flavors, from traditional chocolate and peanut butter to unusual ones such as strawberry shortcake and lemon meringue.

They also have Italian-style ice cream, called gelato, which is just as much fun as the fudge. Not only does it taste absolutely fabulous, but it has half the fat of traditional ice cream.

Having fun is a big deal to Mike and Peggy Bristow, who own and run Roly's English Fudge. After successful careers in the airline industry, they retired and decided to do something that they both would enjoy. They remembered seeing fudge being made while visiting Martha's Vineyard and intrigued by the process, they decided to look into it themselves.

"We ordered different products and decided on the one we liked best," Mike says. "It was Roly's Fudge in the U.K."

Mike and Peggy then visited Roly's in England and grew to love the taste and the company even more. Unless you've been to the southwestern part of England, you probably haven't heard of Roly's. It's a growing franchise over there with 11 shops, but Roly's English Fudge is its first location in the United States.

The next question was where to place the store. They lived in Massachusetts and had visited the Kennebunks in the winter, but they also looked at Burlington, Stowe, Mystic and Boston, among other locations. They decided on Kennebunkport. "We like the town and wanted to live here," Mike says.

Now they are mainly concerned with getting people to try the fudge. If they try it, they'll be hooked.

"We had this one guy in here with his wife," Mike says, "and she was trying this fudge and that fudge and kept saying, 'Honey, you've got to try this!' But he kept saying he didn't like fudge. She persisted and he finally gave in to her and tasted it. He smiled and said 'But that's not fudge,



YOU CAN SEE MIKE AND PEGGY BRISTOW make Roly's English Fudge in the store. This is a firm, crumbly fudge, not wet and sticky. Try some!

it's good!" He tasted another flavor and started laughing out loud and said "This is not fudge!"

"But is it fudge. It's just not what he expected. Roly's Original is something like panuche if people know what that is."

One of the things that sets it apart from other fudge you've had is that it doesn't melt, except in your mouth. Even on a hot summer day, it won't melt. For a unique gift, they will box and ship their fudge all around the world. One shipment sent was lost in the mail for a few days during the hottest time of the summer and the woman receiving it was concerned that it would be one big lump by the time it arrived. No such problem.

The popularity of Roly's is growing. It was recently chosen as the official fudge of Harrod's of London. After that the sales of Harrod's fudge quickly doubled.

All of the fudge is hand crafted by Mike in copper pots made especially for Roly's and the recipe is so precise that the temperature is controlled to the tenth of a degree. The result is an excellent, consistent product every time.

Gelato and sorbetto made by the Palazzolo family in Michigan and shipped to Kennebunkport is equally unique. It's even made Oprah's list of favorite things.

The pralines are simply fun. "I grew up on pralines," Mike says with a smile as he looks at a freshly-made batch. "I like them."

Roly's English Fudge is located at 24 Ocean Ave. in Kennebunkport. For more information call 571-8296 or visit www.RolysEnglishFudge.com.