

BRAND X

EATING 7

THE SHOT

Heaven made from scratch

Sweet teeth on the Westside came out to sample the delectable *pasteles y panes* being served up at the opening of renowned bakery La Monarca's new Santa Monica location.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHERYL A. GUERRERO >>> STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Pastry dish: La Monarca Bakery is a traditional Mexican bakery that offers a wide array of French fusion and Mexican sweet breads, artisan breads, pastries and cakes.



Newbies: Stephanie and Jesus Parra grab some pastries for the first time at La Monarca Bakery in Santa Monica.



Too much to choose from: Sophie Donkin once-overs the variety of pastries.



Made to melt in your mouth: Bite-sized caramel flan.



Feels like home: Customers enjoy the scene at La Monarca Bakery.



Service with a smile: Co-owner Ricardo Cervantes, center, helps out Elaine Nichols, left. "Everything is made from scratch," co-owner Ricardo Cervantes says. "There are no preservatives, no chemicals, and everything is never a day old," he adds. Cervantes co-owns the bakery with Alfredo Livas, with three locations including Santa Monica, Huntington Park and East L.A.