

# Off the Menu

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR  
THE FOODIE IN YOU

● Cheese worshippers, mark your calendar for May 14 and 15 when DeLaurenti hosts its first annual CHEESE FESTIVAL (206.622.0141; [seattlecheesefestival.com](http://seattlecheesefestival.com)). A few dozen artisan cheese makers will set up along the cobblestones of Pike Place Market to serve free samples of—and sell—their wares. Cheese cooking demonstrations will take place inside the store, and to boost your cheese IQ, seminars (\$15 each, preregistration required) on Saturday will delve into such subjects as “The Art of Artisan Cheese Making” and “Perfect Pairings” (tips for wine and cheese matchmaking). You can try some wine-pairing options in the wine tent: \$5 for a sampling with proceeds benefiting the Market Foundation.

● Mario Batali, New York chef and son of our superstar Armandino Batali, makes an appearance at his father's SALUMI (309 Third Ave. S; 206.621.8772) on Monday, May 16. In one-hour sessions, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., folks can pack into the tiny Pioneer Square restaurant for samples from Mario's new cookbook, *Molto Italiano*, and wine. Each guest gets a signed copy of the book. Advance tickets (\$70) recommended.

● Let *Sideways* fans make their pilgrimage to the Santa Barbara tasting rooms; we've got our own outstanding wine country just a quick hop over the Cascades. Consider making the trip on May 13, when the RED LION HOTEL in Pasco (2525 N 20th Ave.; 509.547.0701; [redlion.com](http://redlion.com)) hosts the Bin 20 Winefest (\$45; 509.546.0760; [ticketswest.com](http://ticketswest.com)) from 7 to 10 p.m. As part of the fourth annual Washington State Wine Expo, attended by wine buyers from around the world, more than 75 Washington wineries will pour samples to enjoy with food prepared by chefs from the region.

● The 18th annual TASTE OF THE NATION (800.26TASTE; [tasteofthenation.org/seattle](http://tasteofthenation.org/seattle))—an upscale dine-around that benefits efforts to combat local and global hunger—is Sunday, May 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Bell Harbor International Conference Center at Pier 66. Taste will feature food and drink served by more than 75 restaurants, wineries, breweries and more. Tickets are \$75 each, or \$125 for VIP status, which includes a 5 p.m. pre-function reception. *Cynthia Nims*

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