



**AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> 2009**

Coach Barn, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, Vermont

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## Discover Vermont Artisan Food

Known for its picturesque views and bucolic landscapes, Vermont has always been a premier vacation destination, but it's becoming a top vacation spot for foodies as well.

Widely known as "the Napa Valley of Cheese," Vermont currently boasts the largest number of artisan cheesemakers per capita. And there's no shortage of other delicious handcrafted treats – from artisan breads and chocolates to wines and beer.

This summer is the perfect time to visit, and there's an event the weekend of August 22 and 23rd that is not to be missed. On Sunday, August 23, three of the state's leaders in the artisan cheese industry will join forces to present the 2009 Vermont Cheesemakers' Festival. The extraordinary one-day event will be hosted by the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese, the Vermont Butter & Cheese Company, and the Vermont Cheese Council, and will take place at Shelburne Farms, one of the most spectacular settings in America, just outside of Burlington.

The Festival will be held from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and will feature over 100 cheeses for sampling, 50 different cheesemakers, 15 artisan food makers, four tasting seminars, two cooking demonstrations, and more. "Big cheeses" such as Eric Warnstedt, Food & Wine Best New Chef of 2008, Tom Bivins, Executive Chef of the New England Culinary Institute, and Laura Werlin, renowned author and cheese expert, will take part in the Festival. Tickets will be sold for \$20, and the event is open to the first 1,000 people who purchase tickets.

In addition, on the Saturday before the festival, more than 20 artisan food producers will take part in Vermont Artisan Food Open Studio Day. Cheesemakers, brewers, bakers, and more will host open houses, allowing visitors throughout the state the chance to stop by and taste some delicious locally produced treats.

Visitors to Vermont can also experience the Vermont Cheese Trail, a unique travel opportunity that has quickly become one of Vermont's leading tourist attractions. The Trail allows tourists to visit close to 30 farms, meet the cheesemakers, see the animals, and watch how cheese is made. Located throughout the picturesque Vermont countryside, the Trail is open to the public and makes a great weekend getaway.

**For more information, contact:**

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