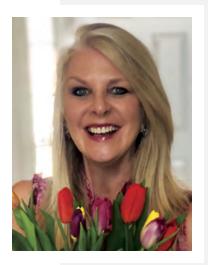


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



It's time to celebrate spring. Even in Wisconsin, we are starting to see signs of the warmer days to come; after a cold and particularly snowy winter, we are ready to trade in our snow shovels for garden tools.

Spring not only means the return of color to our fields but also onto our plates, and this issue features recipes that are a delight for the eyes as well as the taste buds. From asparagus and arugula to radishes and rhubarb—the best of spring's beautiful bounty is reflected throughout

the upcoming pages (and, we won't judge if you skip straight to Sweet Endings to enjoy a slice of Cheddar Blueberry Buckle).

As if the awakening of nature and all of its beauty isn't reason enough to celebrate, there are a lot of other reasons to gather family and friends this season—Easter, Mother's Day, graduations and so many more. Get a start on your menu with our collection of party-perfect appetizers including Strawberry-Gouda Flowers, Shrimp Tostadas with Queso Fresco and Asparagus Bundles with Muenster Cheese.

To round things out, we've got you covered with a few twists, tips and recipes for classic grilled cheese; and we're introducing you to something you may not know about—bread cheese—a delicious, quirky cheese that is perfect for grilling, snacking and pairing with sweet spring fruit.

ICYMI—We also started a new ambassador program, and Wisconsin Cheese fans across the country are hosting cheese parties. In the pages ahead, you'll meet Cheeselandia party host Alyssa Thys, who was kind enough to share her party pics and tell us how she planned the ultimate cheese party with friends.

Spring's here! Let's eat!

Suzanne Farning

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Grate. Pair. Share.

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For more information about Wisconsin Cheese, visit: WisconsinCheese.com





N THIS ISSUE



Party-Perfect Appetizers

Entertain with delicious recipes for every spring celebration.



Cheers to Cheese

Host an at-home Wisconsin cheese party with top tips from the Cheeselandia community.



Buttery Bread Cheese

Here's everything you need to know about juustoleipa.



Grilled Cheese Greatness

Elevate your grilled cheese with our tips, tricks and recipes.



Sweet and Savory Brunch Cheeseboard

Please sweet and savory palates with this brunch-themed board.

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WISCONSIN TO TABLE WE ALWAYS BRING THE CHEESE



See our latest recipes in action!
Check out our step-by-step recipe videos—
new recipes added every week!

WisconsinCheese.com









Juustoleipa, commonly known as a bread cheese, was recently celebrated by party hosts across the Cheeselandia community. Here, host Phi shared her pairing inspiration (above)—it was a mix of sweet and savory treats with fresh blueberries and strawberries, apricot preserves, chocolate sea salt caramels and crackers. Learn more about preparing, pairing and serving juustoleipa on pages 24-31.





Juustoleipa softens but doesn't melt when warmed, making this cheese an ideal choice for kabobs. Party host Ashley served these easy, grilled cherry tomato, juustoleipa and French bread skewers with a balsamic glaze drizzle and fresh basil garnish.



This unique spin on grilled cheese, from Cheeselandia party host Scott, featured juustoleipa as the "bread." The sandwich filling was layered with ham, pepperoni and pickled banana peppers.



What do Cheeselandia party hosts do with leftover cheese? Make grilled cheese, of course! Party host Jordan cooked up a sweet-spicy grilled cheese, which featured Cello® Copper Kettle Cheese, Carr Valley Cranberry Chipotle Cheddar and Red Barn Cūpola cheeses, scallions and hot pepper jelly sandwiched between toasted rye bread.



A favorite Cheeselandia pairing combined the salty, piquant flavors of blue cheese with sweet accompaniments. Try party host Claudia's spread with blue cheese, dried apricots and dates with honey.

Cheeselandia is a consumer movement celebrating the Wisconsin cheese industry through home parties, hosted by passionate cheese lovers, to spread the word about Wisconsin's famous cheeses far beyond our borders.

Apply to host a Cheeselandia home cheese party at: www.cheeseapplication.com/apply.







Alpine-Style and Prosciutto Flatbreads

Serves: 4-6

Ingredients:

- 2 store-bought flatbread crusts or naan flatbreads (about 9 x 7 inches each)
- 6 ounces Roelli Little Mountain cheese (alpine-style), shredded (1 1/2 cups)
- 3 ounces thinly sliced prosciutto, coarsely chopped
- 2 cups fresh baby arugula or baby spinach
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
 Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup honey
 - 1 teaspoon Thai red chili paste

Directions:

Place pizza stone on lower rack in a cold oven. Heat oven to 400°F. Bake stone for at least 30 minutes.

Sprinkle each flatbread with 1/2 cup Little Mountain to within 1/2 inch of edges; top with prosciutto. Sprinkle with remaining Little Mountain. Transfer to stone. (Stone will be hot!) Bake on stone for 10-12 minutes or until crust edges are golden brown and cheese is melted. Transfer to cutting board.

Meanwhile, drizzle arugula with olive oil in a medium bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste: toss to coat. Combine honey and chili paste in a small bowl. Top flatbreads with arugula: drizzle with honey mixture. Cut into pieces. Serve immediately.



Shrimp Tostadas with Queso Fresco

Serves: 6-8

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds uncooked medium shrimp (31-35), peeled, deveined and tails removed
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil, divided
 - 2 teaspoons ground chipotle chili pepper Salt and pepper
 - 12 "street tacos" mini corn tortillas (5 1/2 inches)

- 1 medium lime, halved
- 4 medium avocados, halved, pitted and peeled
- 12 ounces La Morenita™ Queso Fresco cheese, crumbled (2 cups)
 Fresh cilantro, sliced radishes and lime wedges

Directions:

Combine the shrimp, 1/4 cup vegetable oil and chipotle chili pepper in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

Warm the remaining vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Fry tortillas, one at a time, for about 1 minute on each side or until golden brown and crisp. Remove to paper towels to drain. Season with salt.

Drain oil from skillet; cool and discard oil. Add reserved shrimp to pan; cook and stir over medium-high heat for 3-5 minutes or until shrimp turn pink. Remove from the heat; squeeze juice from lime half over shrimp; toss.

Mash avocados with juice from the remaining lime half in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste; stir.

Spread avocado mixture over tortillas. Top with shrimp and queso fresco. Garnish with cilantro, radishes and lime wedges.









Makes 10 bundles

Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons butter, cubed
- 40 fresh asparagus spears, trimmed (about 1 pound)
 Salt and pepper
- 15 sheets phyllo dough, thawed (14 x 9 inches each)
- 4 ounces Nasonville Muenster cheese, shredded (1 cup)

Directions:

Heat the oven to 350°F. Line a 17 x 12-inch baking pan with parchment paper.

Melt butter in a microwave-safe bowl. Drizzle asparagus with 1 tablespoon butter in a shallow, large bowl. Season with salt and pepper; toss to coat.

Unroll phyllo sheets; keep covered with plastic wrap and a damp towel. Place one phyllo sheet on a large cutting board. Lightly brush with butter. Layer two additional phyllo sheets; lightly brush with butter between each sheet. Brush the top sheet with butter. Starting with a long side, fold phyllo sheets into thirds. Cut folded phyllo sheets in half widthwise.

Place 1 tablespoon muenster near a short end of each phyllo strip; top muenster with 4 asparagus spears. Starting at the muenster end, fold strip over asparagus and roll up bundle. Brush the remaining end with butter; roll up to seal. Place on prepared pan seam side down. Repeat with the remaining phyllo sheets, muenster and asparagus.

Brush bundle tops with butter. Bake for 15-17 minutes or until phyllo strips are golden brown and asparagus is tender.

TIP:

When working with phyllo dough, keeping the remaining sheets covered with plastic wrap and a damp towel prevents them from drying out.







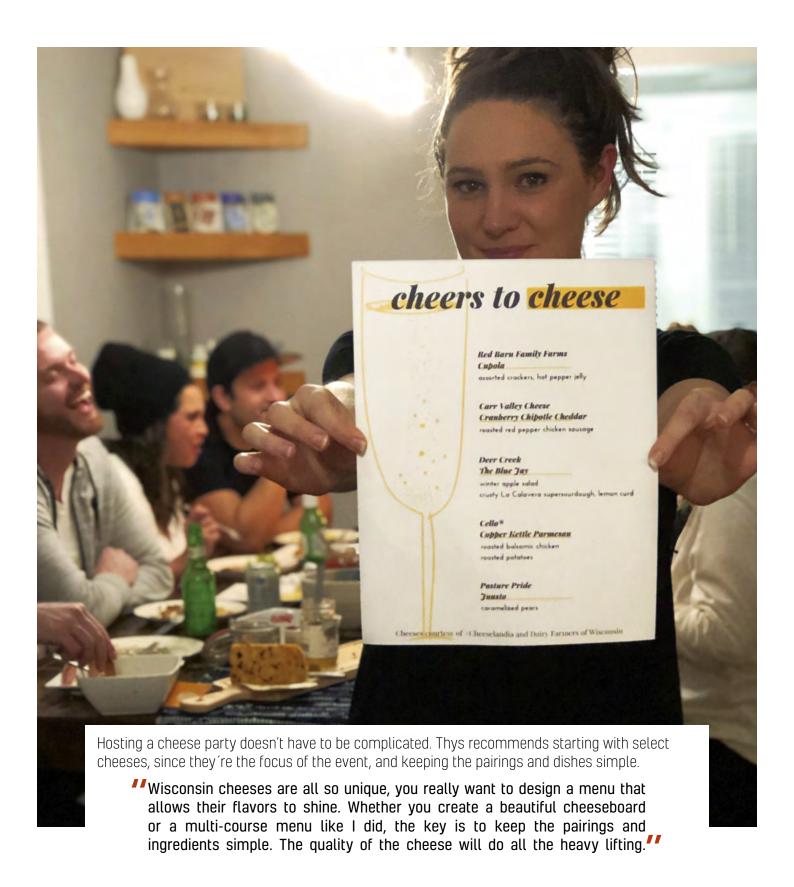
CHEERS TO CHEESE

love for cooking and exploring new flavors inspired Alyssa Thys to apply to host a Cheeselandia home party. Supported by Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Cheeselandia is a consumer movement that celebrates Wisconsin's cheese industry. Avid cheese lovers introduce Wisconsin cheese to family and friends by hosting home parties.

Once selected, Thys took her Cheeselandia party to the next level, challenging herself to create a multi-course dining experience by preparing a dish or pairing to showcase the unique flavor and texture of each Wisconsin cheese. She shared her menu and top hosting tips with us to help recreate an impressive Wisconsin cheese experience at home.









Thys' top tip for at-home cheese party success? Set expectations.

When you are hosting guests for an at-home cheese party, make sure you set expectations for the experience:
Light, cheesy bites or a four-course meal? Cocktails, mocktails or bring-your-own? You can't go wrong when you entertain with cheese. But, once you have a plan in place, let your guests know what to expect.













Beautiful, Buttery Bread Cheese

Juustoleipa (means bread cheese), is native to Scandinavia, and it's so wildly original that even the most devout cheese lovers likely haven't heard of it before.

The name is unique but fun to say. We recommend **hoo-stah-lee-pa**, **you-stay-lay-PA** or bread cheese, and even juusto, if that's easier.

It's not a traditional cheese. As part of the cheesmaking process, it's baked in special ovens, and the heat caramelizes the sugars on the outside of the cheese. It has a signature light brown "crust." And it's that toasty crust, much like bread, that gives juustoleipa its name.

This delicious cheese doesn't melt like you'd expect but beautifully softens. While it can be served cold or warm, most prefer its flavor and texture when warm. It has a soft, buttery texture and mild, slightly sweet flavor. Warming juustoleipa is easy—you can use a microwave, the stovetop or even a grill! Read on for recipes and pairing ideas.

Fun Juusto Fact

When served cold, juusto has a distinctive "squeak" similar to fresh cheese curds.



Warmed Tuustoleipa with Strawberry-Rhubarb Jam

SERVINGS: 8

Ingredients:

- 3 cups chopped rhubarb
- 11/2 cups halved fresh strawberries
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 - 2 packages (6 ounces each)
 Brunkow's Brun-uusto™ Baked
 Cheese (juustoleipa)

Oat crackers

Directions:

Bring the rhubarb, strawberries, sugar and lemon juice to a boil in a large saucepan

over medium-high heat, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to

low; simmer for 40-45 minutes or until the fruit has softened and mixture has thickened, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat. Cool for 10 minutes. Transfer to jars or refrigerator containers. Let stand until cooled to room temperature.

Warm juustoleipa in a large, nonstick skillet over medium heat; cook for 2–3 minutes on each side or until warmed through. Transfer to a cutting board. Cut juustoleipa into slices; serve warm with jam and crackers.

Store any leftover jam in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.





Gilled Tuustoleipa and Veggie Burgers

SERVINGS: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 small eggplant, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1 medium sweet red bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch strips
- 2 tablespoons olive oil Salt and pepper
- 2 packages (6 ounces each) Pasture Pride
 Juusto Italiano™ Baked Cheese (juustoleipa)
- 4 pretzel buns, split and toasted
- 1/4 cup prepared pesto

Directions:

Heat grill to medium.

Drizzle eggplant and red bell pepper with olive oil in a large bowl; toss to coat. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer vegetables to a lightly greased grill grid; place on grill grate. Grill vegetables, covered, over medium heat for 10–12 minutes or until tender, turning occasionally. Remove vegetables from grill grid; keep warm.

Arrange juustoleipa side by side on grill grid; place on grill grate. Grill, covered, for 2–3 minutes on each side or until warmed through. Transfer to a cutting board; cut each juustoleipa slab in half.

Spread buns with pesto; top with juustoleipa and vegetables.

Tuustoleipa and Chicken Bowls

SERVINGS: 2

Ingredients:

Apple-Honey Vinaigrette:

1/4 cup apple cider vinegar

1/4 cup honey

 $1\,$ teaspoon ground chipotle chili pepper

1 teaspoon soy sauce

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Juustoleipa and Chicken Bowls:

1 pouch (8.5 ounces) ready-to-prepare quinoa and brown rice blend with garlic

4 ounces Carr Valley Bread Cheese (juustoleipa), cut into 1/2-inch cubes

1 cup shredded cooked chicken

1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved

3 green onions, chopped

Directions:

Apple-Honey Vinaigrette:

Combine the apple cider vinegar, honey, chipotle chili pepper and soy sauce in a medium bowl. Slowly whisk in olive oil. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

Juustoleipa Chicken Bowls:

Cook quinoa-rice blend according to package directions. Place juustoleipa on a microwave-safe plate; microwave on high for 20-25 seconds or until warm.

Divide quinoa-rice blend between two serving bowls; top each with half of the juustoleipa, chicken and tomatoes. Drizzle with reserved vinaigrette; toss to coat. Sprinkle with green onions.





Cheese Prep:

CHEESE TASTING NOTES

Do you ever find yourself searching for the right words to describe your favorite cheese? You aren't alone! Cheese has a vocabulary all its own to describe subtle (and not so subtle!) flavor nuances. Expanding your cheese vocabulary isn't just helpful—it's also fun! Get ready to impress your friends with these tasting notes for common cheese varieties.



GOUDA

Gouda has **CARAMEL** and **BUTTERSCOTCH** notes that taste similar to cooked sugar and intensify with age.



Cheese Prep:

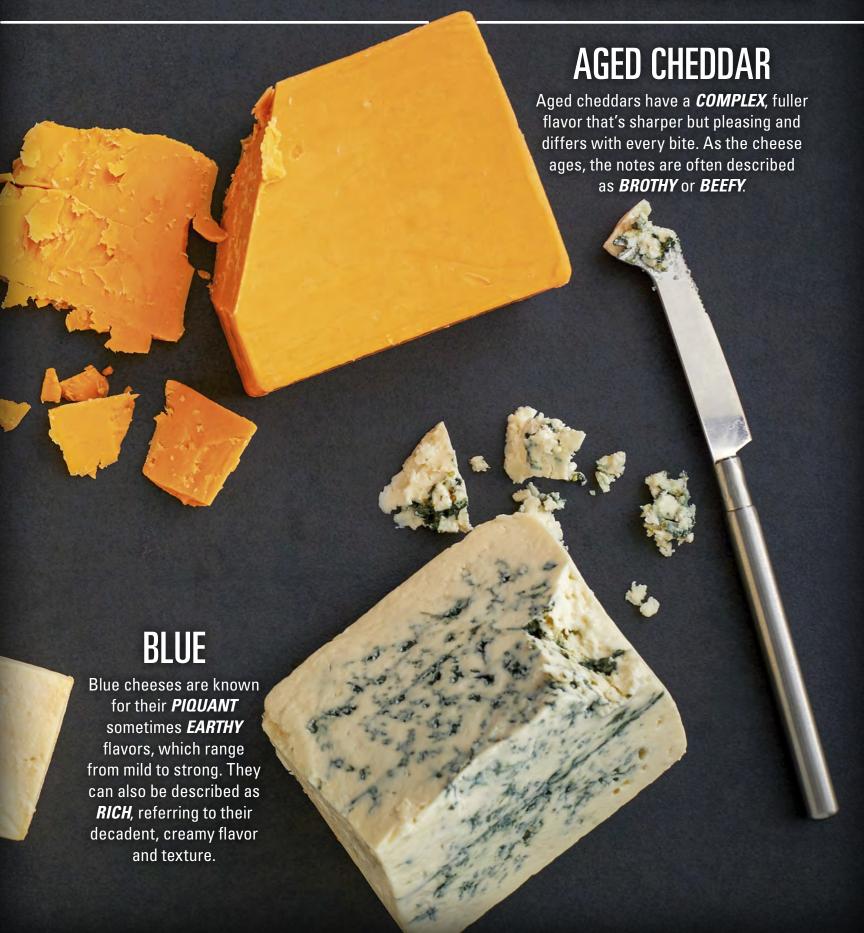
PARMESAN

Aged cheeses such as parmesan can be **SWEET**, with flavors like caramel or toffee, and **FRUITY**. The fruity notes can taste like pineapple.

LIMBURGER

A washed-rind cheese like limburger has a particularly assertive flavor that's often described as **PUNGENT**. It can also taste **EARTHY** with notes of fresh mushrooms.

CHEESE TASTING NOTES















Shredded cheese melts faster and evenly.

AMP UP THE CHEESE.

Explore a world of cheese all crafted in Wisconsin; your taste buds will be glad you did!

Semi-soft cheeses such as gouda, fontina and monterey jack, as well as semi-hard cheeses such as cheddar and swiss, are excellent choices for melting.

Crumbly cheeses like feta or blue are great for adding a burst of flavor.

Spice things up with a flavored cheese like pepper jack, dill havarti or chipotle gouda.









SERVINGS: 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 slices firm white bread
- 4 ounces **Decatur Dairy Cheddar cheese**, shredded (1 cup)
- 4 ounces Maple Leaf Gouda cheese, shredded (1 cup)
- 4 ounces Burnett Dairy™ Hot Pepper Jack cheese, shredded (1 cup)
- 4 tablespoons butter, softened

DIRECTIONS:

Top four slices of bread with cheddar, gouda and pepper jack. Top with remaining bread. Spread the outsides of sandwiches with butter.

Toast one sandwich, covered, in a warm, large skillet over medium heat for 2-3 minutes or until the side is golden brown. Flip sandwich; cook, uncovered, 2-4 minutes longer or until bread is lightly golden brown and cheeses are melted. Repeat with remaining sandwiches.











Cheddar Blueberry Buckle

Servings: 8-10

Ingredients:

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 6 ounces **Henning's Blueberry Cobbler Heritage Cheddar cheese**, shredded
 (1 1/2 cups)
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 2 teaspoons baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 2 1/2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

Topping:

- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 tablespoons cold butter
 Sweetened whipped cream

Directions:

Heat oven to 350°F.

Cream butter and sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and cheddar until blended.

Combine the flour, baking powder and cinnamon in a medium bowl; gradually add to butter mixture alternately with the buttermilk. Fold in blueberries. Transfer batter to a greased 9-inch springform pan.

For topping, combine the flour, sugar and cinnamon; cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over batter.

Bake for 50-55 minutes or until center is set and a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack for 20 minutes. Carefully run a knife around edges of pan; remove sides of pan.

Garnish with whipped cream.





WISCONSIN CHEESE COMPANY

Cheesemakers in America's Dairyland produce more than 600 varieties, types and styles of Wisconsin cheese. Look for Wisconsin cheese and other dairy products made by these companies. **Companies in Bold are featured in this issue.**

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All Star, LTD

Arena Cheese, Inc.

Arla Foods, Inc.

The Artisan Cheese Exchange

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Baker Cheese, Inc.

Bass Lake Cheese Factory

Bel Brands USA

BelGioioso Cheese, Inc.—Corporate

Bleu Mont Dairy Company

Brunkow Cheese of Wisconsin

Burnett Dairy Cooperative

Caprine Supreme, LLC

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Cascade Cheese Company

Castle Rock Organic Farms

Cedar Grove Cheese

Cedar Valley Cheese, Inc.

Cesar's Cheese

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Wohlt Cheese

Yellowstone Cheese, Inc.

Zimmerman Cheese, Inc.



Why Wisconsin? That's an easy one.

Wisconsin is one of those places that does one thing better than anyone else anywhere. We've been making cheese in Wisconsin for over 175 years, which may be one reason we win so many awards for it. It's what happens when a whole state dreams in cheese.

