

The Art of Eating Cheese

September 16, 2011 Venture Blog

Like 14



Cheese Cave is for those serious about eating cheese. This hip, vintage cut-to-order cheese shop is located in Claremont Village (Photo by Kaitlin Schluter).

By Kaitlin Schluter, Editor-in-Chief

Marnie and Lydia Clarke aren't afraid to admit they're fromage-o-philes, an insider term for someone obsessed with cheese. These cravings are inherited. Both sisters come from a lineage of cheese makers, including a grandfather who founded Alta Dena Dairy in 1945. The family-duo took their tastes to the business world with the creation of [Cheese Cave](#), a trendy cut-to-order cheese shop in Claremont Village.

Tucked away among antique stores and bistros, [Cheese Cave](#) is a refreshing escape to urban dining without the traffic. Lydia designed the modern look of the store for functionality, describing it as "approachable, but also having an element of chaotic order." Chalkboard walls bear a simple menu of artisan bread sandwiches and specialty cheeses. An array of jams, crackers, and cheese literature line the walls. And as you enter, a silver cow statue greets you, a birthday gift from the sisters' grandfather.

"I never really understood why they were so passionate about cultured dairy products but I kind of got the bug for them," said Marnie, whose humble cheese making beginnings started in her kitchen.

Soon enough, the interest expanded. She found a job at the Winchester cheese company, attended cheese festivals, and talked Gouda with her sister over the phone. While on a trip to visit their brother in Finland, dreams of starting a business began over a game of playing cards.

"It started as a joke," said Marnie. "Now it's a reality."

[Cheese Cave](#) celebrated its one-year anniversary last June. Since opening, the community hasn't shied away from showing support, mostly in the form of dairy-inspired poetry. Marnie and Lydia have been composing seussical rhymes since childhood. They posted a poem announcing the opening of the business. A week later, an anonymous poem was taped on the storefront in response.

The poems continue to flood in, taking up most of the side window in the store. They also have a resident poet, named Ben, who contributes on a daily basis. The sisters hope to create a book in the future compiling these lactose-tolerant limericks. For now, they enjoy the inspiring atmosphere and relationships with customers —something they don't credit to good business practice.

Both are Christians. They wrote Bible verses, including Romans 8:28, on the store's rafters as a reminder that they didn't do it alone.

"It's like Christmas every day. You think of getting presents but it's bigger than that," said Lydia, with tears in her eyes. "So many people work hard but don't get to see the fruition. We are blessed to be able to."

[Cheese Cave](#) is located at 325 Yale Avenue in Claremont. They're open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information and to follow their blog for upcoming events, visit [www.claremontcheese.com](#).



(From left to right) Reed Herrick, Lydia Clarke, Donna Clarke, and Marnie Clarke make up the Cheese Cave crew (Photo by Kaitlin Schluter).



Dairy-inspired poetry hangs in the store windows at Cheese Cave, paired with a silver cow statue to welcome customers in (Photo by Kaitlin Schluter).

Like 14

Tags: [cheese](#), [cheese cave](#), [claremont village](#), [Kaitlin Schluter](#)

Your turn to respond:

Like 14 likes. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Add a comment...

Comment using... ▼

Facebook social plugin

SEARCH

OUR BLOGS:

Fall 2010 Archive >

Spring 2011 Archive

Uncategorized >

Venture Blog >

POPULAR POSTS

Branches: Using music to speak louder than words

By: Lauren Bugg Talented, quirky, artistic, and sincere are words that could be used to describe the musical duo ...

How to: Stay healthy and prevent sickness before finals week.

By: Kirstina Bolton With finals creeping around the corner and hours of study time and sleep deprivation to be conqu...

Runners hit the beach for Surf City Marathon

[caption id="attachment_351" align="center" width="614" caption="Over 2,000 runners participated in the Surf City M...]

Top 4 Resources on Campus You Didn't Know About

By: Sammi Sheppard 1. Office of Community Want to go camping this weekend but don't have camping equipments? ...

Q & A MANDY SCENDEL

By: Bianca Portal Many people can easily remember the first time they ever visited Disneyland. Go back to the col...

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Sign Up Create an account or log in to see what your friends like.

Collide on Facebook Like

Collide NEW VENTURE BLOG POST! Are you a fromage-o-phile, a lover of cheese? Marnie and Lydia Clarke are. Check out Cheese Cave in Claremont Village, a trendy cut-to-order cheese shop that offers specialty cheese, sandwiches and dairy-inspired poetry.



The Art of Eating Cheese [www.theclause.org](#) Cheese Cave is for those serious about eating.

Facebook social plugin

FEATURED VIDEO