

Hold the date for spring food, craft festivals

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What's better than a food festival? A food festival in spring and summer. And yes, we'll admit, it's always wise to add a craft or antiques fair into the mix. Here are some of the larger festivals coming up in the Hudson Valley. Book a few into your outlook calendar now:

March

NY State Maple Weekend

March 23-24, March 30-31: This is actually two weekends where maple producers across the state welcome families to their farms to see how maple syrup is made, taste it, have a pancake breakfast and buy the products. For the complete list of events, go to mapleweekend.com. Here are two local farms to visit:

Head to Hilltop Hanover Farm: There's a pancake breakfast at Hilltop Hanover Farm at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. both weekends. **Go:** 1271 Hanover St., Yorktown Heights. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children, under 3 are free. Reservations are required at hilltophanoverfarm.org. At White Oak Farm owner Bri Hart will give a free demonstration on how tree sap is converted to maple syrup. His farm store — just like Hilltop Hanover's farm stand — will be open for business. **Go:** 680 Croton Lake Road, Yorktown Heights.

Cronin's Maple Farm: Stop in for the pancake breakfast, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 23-24, March 30-31 and stick around for chainsaw carving, maple tours, and of course, sample some maple candy, popcorn and even Maple Bourbon, on this Hopewell Junction Farm. Breakfast is \$8 adults, \$4 kids. **Go:** 2109 Route 52, Hopewell Jct., 845-224-4620, croninsmaplefarm.com

Soukup Farms: Soukup Farms has been producing pure maple syrup on a wood fired evaporator since 1955. See how it's done then sample fresh maple syrup made with the small scale, hand crafted methods that haven't changed



Dry Aged Burger from Southern Table Bar & Kitchen, during Westchester Magazine's Burger & Beer Blast at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. MARK VERGARI/THE JOURNAL NEWS

in 65 years. **Go:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 23-24 & 30-31. 271 Halls Corners Road, Dover Plains, 845-264-3137, soukupfarms.com

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week

March 11-24. The event, which features prix-fixe three-course meals, is held once in the fall and once in the spring and is all about promoting the chefs and food of the region. It is sponsored by the Valley Table magazine. Last year, over 200 restaurants participated in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Ulster counties. A prix-fixe lunch is \$22.95, with dinner set at \$32.95. **Go to** valleytable.com/hvrw

Westchester County Beerfest

March 23: More than 200 craft beers for people to try. Special appearance by MTV's Ultimate Cover Band winners, The Zoo. **Go:** 4-6 p.m. Tickets are \$55-\$69 for VIP access; \$18 designated driver option available. County Center, 198 Central Ave., White Plains, countycen.biz

Hudson Valley Chowderfest

March 9: Come thaw out from this winter to Chowderville and sample chili, chowders and soups from all over the Hudson Valley. Kids will love this family friendly event, especially strolling through Candy Cane Lane where you can sample and purchase local candy, cupcakes, fudge, cookies and of course chocolate! Hey adults — ever had chocolate wine? Now is your chance! **Go:** 1-5 p.m. March 9. Tickets are \$20; 4-Pack General Admission Special: \$68; VIP Brew Ticket: \$50. Kids under 12 are free. Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, hvchowderfest.com

April

TAP NY Craft Beer and Food Festival

April 27-28: Head to Hunter Mountain for this annual two-day craft beer extravaganza, featuring samples from more than 130 breweries. There's also



Thirty-six cupcakes were entered in the amateur cupcake contest at the Gardiner Cupcake Festival. GEOFFREY WILSON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

food, of course, and live music. **Go:** 2-6 p.m. Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets range from \$62-\$133 with a designated driver option an additional cost. Must be 21 with valid ID to enter. Hunter Mountain, 64 Klein Ave., Hunter, tap-ny.com

May

L.A.B. Fest

May 18-19: Industrial Arts Brewing & GARNER Arts Center are putting on a weekend of collaborative art making and beer brewing on 14 acres of historic grounds called Live Art & Beer, or L.A.B. Featuring 40 breweries, performance troupes, aerialists and installations. **Go:** 2-6 p.m. Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. It overlaps with the annual GARNER Arts Festival, held May 19-20, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wander the grounds and view exhibitions, sculptural installations and live performances. Tickets are \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, students, military, and free for kids under 14. 55 West Railroad Ave., Garnerville. 845-947-7108. garnerartscenter.org

Gardiner Cupcake Festival

May 18: Who wouldn't love a day devoted to cupcakes? This 10th annual festival includes sampling from dozens of bakers — there's 10,000 cupcakes here — contests, a 5K Cupcake Classic run, food, music, wine tastings, children's

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People enjoy the second annual Wine, Cider and Food Truck Festival at Stormville Airport. RYAN SANTISTEVAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Festivals

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activities. **Go:** Noon-5 p.m. Wright's Farm, 699 Route 208, Gardiner. gardinercupcakefestival.com

June

Fork To Fondo

June 9: This event combines biking with food tastings. The organized ride includes stops where you can stop for chef-prepared bites at farms, along with farm tours, music, a beer garden, farm market and more. **Go:** Noon-5 p.m. The base camp is at Warwick Valley Winery, 114 Little York Road, Warwick.

Polish Festival

June 1-2: German Masonic Park will be transformed for this annual festival featuring traditional Polish food and beverages, Polish music, dancing, contests and competition along with hands-on arts and crafts and activities for the kiddos. **Go:** 11 a.m.-10 p.m. both days. 89 Western Highway, Tappan.

Food truck and craft beer festival

June 8: Third annual festival features more than 40 craft beers and more than 15 food trucks. **Go:** 1-5 p.m. Stormville Airport, 428 Route 216, Stormville. 845-221-6561; stormvilleairportfleamarket.com

Westchester Magazine Wine & Food Festival

June 4-9: This 9th annual event features seven events over seven days celebrating food, wines, beer, spirits and award-winning chefs. Events include a Burger & Beer Bash, Grand Tasting, a junior chef experience. **Go:** For tickets and more information, go to winefood.westchestermagazine.com.

Hudson Valley Wine & Chocolate Festival

June 15, 16: Sip wine and sample chocolate, wine, spirits, cider, craft beer from all across our region. Celebrate the spring with over 80+ vendors and get all of your Father's Day shopping done in one location. Shop from additional vendors for honey, olive oil, fine crafts, specialty foods and more. Food trucks will be onsite with food to purchase during the event. And bands will be playing



Maple syrup and other items for sale at Soukup Farms in Dover Plains, in 2017. MARK VERGARI/THE JOURNAL NEWS



"Sunday Dinner" at The Rare Bit in Dobbs Ferry, roast beef with Yorkshire pudding. SUBMITTED

throughout the day. There is a separate Food Truck Village and dining tent area. **Go:** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. June 15, 16. Must be 21 and over for all ticket holders. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 day of event; \$10 designated driver option available. Ulster County Fairgrounds, 249 Libertyville Road, New Paltz. Buy tickets online at eventbrite.com.

More fun

Sheep-To-Shawl:

April: Activities include sheep-shearing, dyeing wool, weaving cloth, tape-loom weaving, knitting, linen bleaching and every other step in the process of turning wool into cloth using 18th-century techniques. On May 14, stop by for Pinkster, a cross-cultural festival that re-creates the spring holiday with a rousing colonial-style celebration featuring music and dance. **Go:** Dates to be announced. Tickets \$16 adults, \$12 students, seniors, \$8 kids (3-

17), Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, 914-631-8200, hudsonvalley.org.

Lightscaapes

April 25: This dazzling display of light was created by the team behind the famous Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze. Tickets for the event go on sale April 1. **Go:** 525 S. Riverside Ave., Croton-on-Hudson. For times and additional information visit hudsonvalley.org.

Old Salem Spring Horse Show

May 7-12 and May 14-19: Families and equestrian fans can get up close at a world-class competition, which brings together top horses, including Olympic show jumpers from across the country. **Go:** \$15 adults, \$10 children/seniors. 190 June Road, North Salem, oldsalemfarm.net

The Rhinebeck Country Living Fair

May 31-June 2: You'll find a number of vendors selling antiques, vintage, handcrafted goods, art, furniture, folk art, upcycled goods, home and garden décor, plants, specialty foods and much more. It'll also feature a harvest and gourmet market, cooking demos, artisan's demonstrations and more. **Go:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. The Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 U.S. 9, Rhinebeck

Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst

May 3-5: Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst, a celebration of all things handmade, returns to Tarrytown with hundreds of modern American artists, designers and craftspeople offering one-of-a-kind and limited-edition designs in a variety of materials. **Go:** Weekend pass is \$12; seniors (62+) are \$11; children 6-16 are \$4; and children under 6 are free. Mansion tours are additional. Show hours: Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Rain or shine. For more information, discount coupons, group rates and travel directions visit artrider.com or call 845-331-7900. 635 S. Broadway, Tarrytown.