



For Immediate Release

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Newport Offers You Many Ways to Tantalize Your Taste Buds!

From farmers' markets to fine dining, there is a culinary experience for every taste.

Newport, RI (February 26, 2008) – Grab a fork! Newport is a mecca for foodies around the world. Whether you choose to sample fresh, organic produce and baked goods at a local farmers' market or to attend one of the many food festivals throughout the year highlighting regional favorites or international delights, you will not leave hungering for more. For an authentic Newport experience, be sure to try a steaming bowl of chowder, a refreshing Del's frozen lemonade or a savory stuffed quahog.

Restaurant weeks are popular throughout the country as a way to attract new customers, highlight local chefs and showcase regional produce, but Newport County goes the extra mile with a full calendar of events planned and a component for those less fortunate, as many of the restaurants will give a percentage of their first night's sales to area soup kitchens and food pantries. Diners will enjoy three-course prix fixe meals at exceptional values (lunch \$16 and dinner \$30) and have the opportunity to stay in touch with the latest food trends, and learn to prepare that special meal for family and friends. From wine tastings and gluten-free cooking demonstrations to sushi & saki nights and a rum history tour with samples, Newport Restaurant Week is a complete celebration of the culinary arts. Locals and visitors alike look forward to this event because it is a great way to try a new restaurant or visit an old favorite and it is easy on the wallet! Save your appetite for April 6th-12th & November 9th-15th. www.GoNewportRestaurantWeek.com

“Being centered between Boston and NYC and right down the road from Johnson and Wales University, there is as much culinary talent in Newport, RI as you will find in any major city. We are once again welcoming the opportunity to showcase our award-winning team of chefs and culinary artists,” states John Trudeau, Director of Food and Beverage at The Hotel Viking.

Newport's abundance of food festivals and culinary events help to make this spectacular destination popular year-round. Winter brings pizza & chili cook-offs during the **Annual Newport Winter Festival** in February and the **Kinsale, Ireland Festival of Fine Food** in March, a collaboration with our sister city. The **Schweppe's Great Chowder Cook-**

Off is a much anticipated event each spring, while the **Black Ships Festival** and **Newport Waterfront Irish Festival** bring an international flair during the summer. For oenophiles, the **Newport Mansions Food & Wine Festival** in September is a way to enjoy specialty wines from over 150 wineries and fabulous food in an elegant setting. Other events not to miss in the fall include the **Taste of Rhode Island**, **Oktoberfest**, and **Bowen's Wharf Seafood Festival**.

Home to three award-winning vineyards, a brewery and the state's only distillery, an afternoon of touring and tasting local libations is another great way to explore Newport County. **Sakonnet Vineyards**, located in the quaint town of Little Compton, is the largest and oldest winery in the state. In nearby Portsmouth, **Greenvale Vineyards** welcomes visitors with a tasting room in a picturesque hillside manor house. Minutes from downtown, **Newport Vineyards'** offering include a trendy ice wine. While in Middletown, stop by **Coastal Extreme Brewery** for a pint of Newport Storm ale or a sample of Thomas Tew rum, which is being distilled for the first time in Rhode Island since 1842. www.sakonnetwine.com; www.greenvale.com; www.newportvineyards.com; www.newportstorm.com

A vibrant seaside city, the nightlife scene offers great options to top off a Newport visit! Live music at waterfront bars, cool blues bars, and dancing all night long are options to complete a fun night out in Newport. For a more relaxing evening, Newport welcomes visitors to numerous sports bars, Irish pubs, and laid-back outdoor restaurants. Don't miss the opportunity to experience fine restaurants and a variety of culinary events that can only be found in Newport County!

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The Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the City of Newport and the five townships of Newport County as a destination resort for business and leisure travel. For further information, please contact the NCCVB Marketing Department at (401) 845-9151 or www.GoNewport.com.