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FOOD STUFF

Raclette Made Simple



Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

By FLORENCE FABRICANT
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In its traditional Alpine home, raclette can involve rigmarole — lighting a fire (preferably in your ski lodge), holding a hunk of the cheese before the flames and scraping off what melts to serve with boiled potatoes and pickles. But you can simply melt some nuggets of Spring Brook Farm's raclette from Vermont in a saucepan, and it's just about as good. This mild yet complex cow's-milk cheese has an earthy aroma and fruity flavor. It comes in big wheels with rust-colored rind enclosing a satiny, semisoft paste. As superb as it is for melting (burgers, pasta, soup, sandwiches), it is also excellent on a cheese tray. And it's educational; Spring Brook is a host of the Farms for City Kids program, bringing fourth and fifth graders from urban schools to milk cows and do chores.

Spring Brook Farm Reading Raclette is \$14.99 a pound at Ideal Cheese; \$25 a pound at Lucy's Whey in Chelsea Market and in East Hampton, N.Y.

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