

# edible TIDBITS

## FOOD JOURNAL

**SOUTH:** Could this be the start of a new wave? Opening this summer, **The Chelsea** ([thechelsea-ac.com](http://thechelsea-ac.com)) is the first non-gaming hotel to grace the Atlantic City boardwalk since the 1960s. With over 300 rooms, a saltwater-inspired spa, two Stephen Starr restaurants and other seaside amenities, the 20-story project is the work of Cape May Advisors, the team behind the award-winning renovation of Cape May's **Congress Hall** and **The Virginia Hotel** ... If you're heading to Cape May, dine after the drive at **Lucky Bones Backwater Grille**, located a short distance from the end of the GSP at 1200 Route 109. It offers a nice casual vibe and good food, including brick oven pizza (609-884-2663, [luckybonesgrille.com](http://luckybonesgrille.com)) ... Craving a homemade pie? **Springdale Farms**, at 1638 South Springdale Road in Cherry Hill, offers over 50 varieties, including summertime favorites peach, blueberry and cherry (856-424-8674; [springdalefarms.com](http://springdalefarms.com))

**CENTRAL:** The inaugural season of the **Rutgers Gardens Farmers Market**, presented by Rutgers University and Rutgers Gardens, runs every Friday through October 31 on the grounds of New Brunswick's Rutgers Gardens. Additional congratulations are in order: Rutgers recently became part of the international Slow Food on Campus program. **Slow Food Rutgers** joins **Slow Food Princeton** as two of only a handful of U.S. campus conviva ... Casey Pesce and his wife Jen have opened **D'JEET?** in Red Bank (212 Highway 35, 732-224-8887, [djeetcatering.com](http://djeetcatering.com)). The takeout and catering service promises "creative healthy cuisine with a side of gourmet." Since Pesce is the former sous chef at the Fromagerie in Rumson and executive chef at Mumford's Culinary Center in Tinton Fall, we expect delicious things.

**NORTH:** South Dean Street in Englewood has some amazing food hidden behind a few of those industrial-looking facades. **Balthazar Bakery** (214 South Dean Street; 201-503-9717) bakes all their breads here. Drop into their tiny but friendly shop for a croissant and coffee, and bring home their signature pain de seigle, or a baguette, or a ciabatta. A few blocks away, Jerry Turci holds court in his remarkable **Jerry's Homemade** (410 South Dean Street, 201-871-8305), a market full of all good things Italian, including sauces, salads, pasta, cheese, wine and produce... **Tom The Greengrocer** (2305 South Avenue, Scotch Plains, 908-232-9216) may want to add a new title to his name. Along with the edibles inside, the annuals, perennials and greens outside keep his storefront bursting with color ... Speaking of colors, indulge your horticulturist's heart with a visit to the amazing orchid gallery at **Stony Hill Gardens** (8 Route 24, Chester, 908-879-2696, [stonyhillgardens.com](http://stonyhillgardens.com)).—n.b.p.

## LIV BETTER

A favorite drink just got better. The 18 month-old sports drink LIV Natural announced in April that its brand and ingredients are now completely organic. Now officially called **LIV Organic**, the Citrus Passion, Orange, Lemon and Berry drinks contain no artificial colors, flavors or preservatives. Instead of packing the usual sport drink punch of high-fructose corn syrup, they are made with agave nectar, a natural, unprocessed source of sugar. LIV Organic is available at Whole Foods Markets, Kings and Garden of Eden.



[liv-organic.com](http://liv-organic.com)

## CHEERS TO THE HOMETOWN HOT DOG

Good news for summer grills—and appetites. The **Great Organic Hot Dog** from New Jersey's own **Applegate Farms** is made from 100% organically raised, grass-fed beef, with no preservatives, fillers or artificial ingredients. They're also free of antibiotics, growth hormones, gluten and casein. Maybe that's why they taste so full of great, old-fashioned real beef flavor. The dogs are available in stores statewide, including Whole Foods Markets and Shop-Rite. They were also recently designated the official "hometown hot dog" at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, home to the Somerset Patriots' minor league baseball team. Applegate Farms celebrated the honor by donating all opening night proceeds to Van Derveer Elementary School in Somerville. The funds will be used to improve the school's lunch program.



[applegatefarms.com](http://applegatefarms.com)

## HARD TO SWALLOW

Governor Corzine's proposal earlier this year to eliminate the **New Jersey Department of Agriculture** left many Garden State residents scratching their heads—and kicking into action. Over 1,000 farmers and supporters turned out in protest at an April rally in Trenton; thousands more lobbied their legislators against the cut. The proposal, an effort to help close the state's \$2.7 billion budget gap, suggested that the Department's many functions—farmland preservation, Jersey Fresh, organic certification, pest management, to name just a few—be turned over to the departments of Environmental Protection and Health for an estimated savings of \$4 million. Fortunately, the recommendation was rescinded in May, but stay tuned. The department could come under attack again as the state struggles with over \$30 billion in overall debt, a figure that, according to Moody's Investor Services, ranks third behind California and New York.