

# 10 GOURMET TREATS TO SPOIL YOURSELF THIS SUMMER!

by CINDY on JANUARY 7, 2010

The summer season is ideal for getting together with family and friends and celebrating. But whoever says celebrations, says food! Right, what should we have to please the guests? To make your task easier, we have compiled here a list of gourmet treats available within the Canterbury region.



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Cheese, chocolate, wine, fudge, olive oils, coffee, you name it, Canterbury has it all! You will find exquisite and delicious products that you may not have realised were in your backyard all along.

Now it is your turn to impress your friends and family - they will love it. They may even want to try the products themselves - here's our guide to where to find them!

## 1) Learn More About Cheese Making At Barry's Bay Cheese Factory

Barry's Bay award winning cheeses are produced with some of the finest milk we can find in the fertile pastures of Banks Peninsula. Cheese samples are available if you need help deciding! Maasdam, Gouda, Edam, Havarti, flavoured or rinded Cheddars, etc - the choice is yours! Barry's Bay also offers a wide range of wines, local preserves, honeys, oils, antipasto items and gifts.



You can view cheese making every second day between the months of October to May or view a short film of the cheese making process if you happen to be there on a non-cheese making day. All cheeses are cut and packed by hand. The Cheese and Wine Shop is open 7 days 9am to 5pm and is located on Highway 75 on the way to Akaroa in Banks Peninsula.

## 2) Discover A Different Christchurch With Christchurch Sightseeing

With an exceptional personal level of customer service, Christchurch Sightseeing will take you on a tour you have never been on before! Choose between chocolate, lifestyle or wine tours; one way or another, your cravings for great foods, wines and experiences will be satisfied.

Limited to 5 customers per vehicle, visit some amazing New Zealanders making excellent quality products. Purchase great food and wine that you can enjoy once back home as you share your great memories. Christchurch Sightseeing can also design a tour to suit your needs. Pick up are available

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### 3) Look No Further Than The Heart Of The Garden City To Discover City Winery & Cheese Factory

Hidden in central Christchurch, [City Winery & Cheese Factory](#) offers a great range of New Zealand wines and cheeses in a vineyard atmosphere for free daily tastings. Sit down and relax in a lovely restored shop with native timber to discover what New Zealand has to offer.

City Winery & Cheese Factory is located at 28 Mollett Street, just a ten minute walk from Cathedral Square. The shop is open from 10.30am until 7pm every day of the week.



### 4) Let The Fudge Cottage Seduce You

Nestled in the Arts Centre of Christchurch, the [Fudge Cottage](#) is the perfect place to go to satisfy your cravings! The fudge is handcrafted, therefore packed full of flavour. The Fudge Cottage uses local and New Zealand ingredients wherever possible, such as fresh New Zealand milk and cream, apricots from Cromwell in Central Otago, walnuts and Manuka Honey from Canterbury, and macadamia nuts from Kaipara in Auckland.



Giftware, which can be personalised, is made with the same care and attention to ensure presentation is perfect. Let the fudge masters impress you with their unique, authentic and special products. Gluten Free, Dairy Free and Sugar Free items are also available. Should you want to learn more about the confection process, you can join the [Kitchen Tour](#) which starts at 2pm from Monday to Friday.

### 5) Visit Italy Without Leaving New Zealand!

Amuri Estate is an established olive grove situated in Hanmer Springs, an easy 90-minute drive north of Christchurch. With 1,300 olive trees, customers can taste five different varieties sourced from the Tuscany region of Italy and also from Spain and France.

Visitors can experience fresh pressed Extra Virgin Olive Oil as Amuri Estate offer a tour which includes comparative olive oil tasting and a



guided tour of the olive grove with the owner. A delectable individual antipasto platter with a glass of wine is served. [Tours](#) are available from Thursday to Sunday, from 12.30pm to 2pm.

## 6) Fall In Love With SHE Chocolat!

Your search is over!! [SHE Chocolat](#) are excited to offer a range of creative ideas all of which of course involve chocolate!! A day in the chocolate kitchen, a chocolate extravaganza evening, a range of chocolate boxes and Chocolate hampers... and more chocolate! Named 'possibly the finest chocolates outside of Europe' by Southern Hospitality Magazine, you will ask for more once you taste it!



SHE Chocolat's fine handmade chocolates are available at cafes, boutiques and organics stores throughout Christchurch. But there is nothing like [visiting SHE Chocolat](#) itself. Overlooking the magnificent Governors Bay, SHE Chocolat is located at 79 Main Rd and is open every day from 10am until 5pm. Full Brunch and Lunch menu are available from 10am until 3pm.

## 7) Great Things New To Seagars Café In Oxford

Because [Seagars Café](#) is so popular from 8am to 4pm every day of the week, Jo Seagar made a wise decision to open in the evening on Thursdays. Join her for tasty platters, a main course of the night, a glass of wine, beer or maybe just for coffee and desserts. She's got everything you need to spoil your taste buds!

Jo Seagar is passionate about New Zealand food, but [offers much more!](#) Join a cooking class, spend a night in their countryside bed & breakfast or do a bit of shopping at the Kitchen Store. Seagars is located in Oxford, a scenic 45-minute drive from Christchurch.



## 8) Let Your Tastebuds Tour Canterbury With Taste Canterbury!

[Taste Canterbury](#) offers gourmet tours which will take you to Canterbury's unique food and wine producers. Mavis Airey, an award-winning food writer, personally escort all groups. Along with her, meet the makers, watch them at work and taste their wares; sample artisan cheeses, award-winning wine, handmade chocolates, tree-ripened fruit, olives, walnut products, unique honeys and boutique beers.



[Half-Day and Full-Day tours](#) available seven days a week. West Melton, Christchurch City, Waipara Valley, Ellesmere or Akaroa are the main destinations, but itineraries can also be tailor-made to suit special interests and the time available.

## 9) Akaroa Cooking School - Brand New And Waiting For You!

To learn how to cook the freshest local and seasonal ingredients, enrol in the Akaroa Cooking School. In a relaxed environment, let the chefs show you how to prepare the dishes on that day's menu. The owners grow much of the produce, and the rest is collected from local suppliers and artisan producers.

Once back home, don't forget to show your achievements and impress your family and friends! Akaroa Cooking School is located on the waterfront of

Akaroa with spectacular views of the harbour and surrounding hills, a 90-minute scenic drive from central Christchurch. Visit their website to find out the [full summer class schedule](#).



## 10) Sample NZ's Best Olive Oil In Banks Peninsula!

[The Olive Grove](#) - home of Robinsons Bay olives - produce the award winning Robinsons Bay Grove Blend extra virgin olive oil, but also infuse high quality extra virgin oil to produce a variety of versatile infused oils; Mandarin and Lemon, Garlic, Basil and Chilli. Three varieties of table olives are also produced and to treat your skin, a very special "Olive" range of body care products is available.

The [tasting room](#) is open most days from 12pm to 5pm, from October to

May. The Olive Grove offer free tasting. Tours of the grove and group booking are available by prior arrangement. The Olive Grove is worth a visit!



**So it is. Ten ideas to spoil yourself this summer! We are sure there must something in this list that will please your tastebuds. Canterbury has a lot of treasures to be found. Should you have more delectable ideas, feel free to share them with us in the comments below. We would love to hear from you.**

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### About the Author



**Article by Cindy Banville, Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism**

Cindy arrived from Québec in 2007 for a five-month trip. She fell in love at first sight with a kiwi - and the country - so decided to stay! Passionate about mountains and lakes, she has done three road-trips around the South Island so far. Environmentally aware, she will surprise you with her eco-friendly ideas!

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