

American Essence

FOR EVERYONE WHO LOVES THIS COUNTRY

The Fall Harvest

Why pie represents Americans' love of self-expression



“The microclimate in Pescadero is perfect for growing apples, with the cool sea mist from the ocean.”

—CHRISTINA FERRARI

Ferrari Apple Orchard

Along a stretch of California’s State Route 1 that passes through Half Moon Bay, one can find farm stalls set up on the road, and the bounty of produce includes apples grown by the Ferrari family. About 15 years ago, the family purchased a 150-acre working ranch with over 100 years of history, in Pescadero, California. The Ferraris wanted to start a business project that brought the family together. “The orchard provides an opportunity to grow the apple varieties we like as a family, in addition to being a special place where everyone can spend time with each other,” said Christina Ferrari.

Together with her siblings, Christina occasionally helps her parents run the 5-acre orchard, although she primarily manages American Bistro, a Silicon Valley restaurant for which she is also the chef. She believes that the warm days and cool evenings make for the ideal conditions to grow apples. “The microclimate in Pescadero is perfect for growing apples, with the cool sea mist from the ocean,” she said.

The orchard grows nine different varieties, but the family is partial to the Granny Smith. “In addition to the crispness and juiciness, the tart and acidic flavor—plus its firmness—make it perfect for cooking and baking,” Christina said. She also has her own small orchard, where she grows more than a dozen heirloom varieties. As a chef, Christina’s favorite apple dish is the tarte tatin—it’s also an American Bistro specialty. “The caramelization of the apples and delicate puff pastry is a treat,” she said. ■



ABOVE Christina Ferrari picking apples at her family’s orchard.

RIGHT Ferrari is also the chef-owner of a restaurant in Silicon Valley that incorporates apples from the family orchard into its menu.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The Ferrari orchard's farm stall along the scenic State Route 1 highway; the Jonistar variety; children enjoying apples at the orchard; Granny Smiths; Gala apples.



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