

Oh, Those Glorious Tomatoes!

From the Kitchens of the Lamorinda Weekly

We love the tomatoes from the Farmers' Market, and they are at their best in late August. Sometimes the freshest ingredients need only the simplest of preparations.

This festive salad can be arranged on a large platter or on individual plates to accompany your favorite summer supper, or served over grilled ciabatta bread for a lovely lunch. Be sure to look for a nice variety of tomatoes, and use a good light olive oil – the lemon-infused oil works nicely and adds an additional flavor element. The chunky dressing needs to stand just long enough for the flavors to blend. Go easy on the salt (the blue cheese adds saltiness as well) and the vinegar – the real flavor lies in the tomatoes.



Our heirloom tomatoes came from Hamada Farms, who can be found at both the Orinda and Moraga Farmers' Markets, but there are many fine tomato vendors at the Markets
Photos by Lee Borrowman

Heirloom Tomato Salad

- 2 cups cut assorted small tomatoes (currant tomatoes can stay whole, halve or quarter cherry tomatoes, and dice small heirlooms such as Green Zebras, capturing as much of the juice as possible)
- 1 tablespoon chopped green onion
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- splash of balsamic vinegar
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 6-8 large basil leaves, cut into chiffonade*

*to cut chiffonade: stack basil leaves, roll them up tightly and slice thinly across the vein with a sharp knife

- 6 medium-large heirloom tomatoes of assorted colors, cored and sliced
- A few paper-thin slices of red onion
- 1/2 cup coarsely crumbled blue cheese

Gently toss the cut tomatoes and green onions in olive oil and balsamic vinegar; season to taste with salt and pepper. Let stand for 15-20 minutes, adding the basil at the end.

Overlap tomato slices in concentric circles, alternating colors. Scatter red onion slices, then spoon on chopped tomato and green onion mixture (be sure to use all of the liquid); top with crumbled blue cheese.



Many of the ingredients are available at the Farmers' Market – even the olive oil



Serves 6-8



Your chef this week is Lee Borrowman, Lamorinda Weekly Editor

If you have a favorite recipe to share, please send it to lee@lamorindaweekly.com! (We reserve the pleasure of testing all recipes in the Kitchens of the Lamorinda Weekly prior to publication)

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A Day at Briones Regional Park

She looks for wild life and often spots rattlesnakes, bluebelly lizards, and other interesting wildlife.

For many local residents, Briones is a favorite place to have fun with their dogs. Severin and Margaret Borenstein often take their Portuguese Water Dog Wilbur, for long walks at Briones. As soon as they turn onto Bear Creek Road, the dog knows where he's going and starts to get excited. "The nature is magnificent here," says Borenstein, a professor at UC Berkeley. "You choose from miles of trails, in the shade or in the sun, whatever strikes your mood." The Borenstein's have an annual pass for parking and have been coming to Briones for 15 years. One small complaint from Severin: since the park is open to ranchers who rent space for cattle grazing, so dogs sometimes encounter cow manure, for which they seem to have an enduring and annoying attraction!

The endless trails of Briones are a perfect place for hikers, bicyclists and horses. It has a long history of human activities. In the first half of the nineteenth century the 13,000 plus acre of park land belonged to ranchers Felipe and Maria Briones. It was purchased around 1870 by Elias Blum. Like many large pieces

of land surrounding the public creeks and reservoirs, it was purchased by the People's Water Company starting in 1906. In 1957 the East Bay Municipal Utility District, successor to the water company, and Contra Costa County started calling this large open space "Briones." Since 1966, 6,117 acres of parkland have been transferred to East Bay Regional Parks District. Briones Regional Park officially opened on October 22 1967.

The park offers many first-come, first-served picnic spots with barbecues. It also has two larger,

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group picnic areas that can be reserved at the Bear Creek Staging Area at Oak Grove, which can accommodate 50 people, and the picnic grounds at Newt Hollow, which accommodate 150. Briones offers three group camping areas—Wee-Ta-Chi, Maud Whalen, and Homestead Valley. They may be reserved by calling 1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757, press option 2, then 1, or by writing to EBRPD Reservations, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381, Oakland, CA 94605-0381. Reservations must be made at least 7 days in advance.

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LAMORINDA's Restaurants			
•• updated August 22, 2007 ••			
American	Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108
	Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469
	Hungry Hunter	3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	938-3938
	Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200
	Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127
	Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832
	The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234
BBQ	Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133
Burger Joint	Flippers	960 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-1567
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers	400 Park, Mor	376-8888
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888
Café	Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd #170, Laf	283-7170
	Ferrari-Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040
	Geppetto's coffee	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894
California Cuisine	Gigi's	1005 Brown St., Laf	962-0882
	Metro Lafayette	3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-4422
	Shelby's	2 Theatre Sq, Ori	254-9687
Caribbean	Calypso Bar & Grill	2 Theatre Sq, Suite 153, Ori	258-9686
Chinese	Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809
	Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheim Blvd, Mor	376-1740
	China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828
	The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500
	Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852
	Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569
	Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839
	Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288
	Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020
	Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688
	Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228
Coffee Shop	Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397
	Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830
	Village Inn Cafe	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080
Continental	Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117
	Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330
	Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108
Hawaiian Grill	Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338
Indian	India Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700
	Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575
Italian	Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869
	La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282
	La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191
	Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081
	Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300
	Mondello's	337 Rheim Blvd, Mor	376-2533
	Nino's Bay	#2 Theater Square, Ste. 153, Ori	253-1327
	Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500
	Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700
	Ristorante Amoroma	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662
Japanese	Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809
	Blue Ginko	3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020
	Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709
	Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606
	Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088
	Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872
	Yu Sushii	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399
Jazz Dinner Club	Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807
	The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445
Mediterranean	Alekos	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290
	Oasis Cafe	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822
	Per Tutti Ristorante	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225
Mexican	360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270
	El Charro Mexican Dining	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345
	El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639
	La Cocina Mexicana	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987
	Mucho wraps	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203
	Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740
	Celia's Restaurant	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288
	El Balazo	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700
	Maya	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049
	Taqueria El Balazo	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700
	Numero Uno Taqueria	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333
Pizza	Aladino's Pizza	3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6363
	Mountain Mike's Pizza	504 Center St, Mor	377-6453
	Pennini's	1375 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-1515
	Round Table Pizza	"361 Rheim Blvd.", Mor	376-1411
	Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404
	Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200
	Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800
Sandwiches/Deli	Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400
	Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202
	Gourmet Bistro Cafe	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551
	Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766
	Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716
	Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990
Singaporean/Malaysian	Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653
South American	The Patio Tapas and restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	299-6885
Steak	Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981
Tea	Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226
Thai	Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883
	Baan Thai	99 Orinda Way, Ori	253-0989
	Royal Siam	512 Center St, Mor	377-0420
	Siam Orchid	23 Orinda Way # F, Ori	253-1975

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