

Montana's Culinary Marvel: Whitefish Food & Wine Festival Returns as a National Destination Event This Fall

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Whitefish, Montana Aug 7, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Nestled in the scenic Flathead Valley, the town of Whitefish has long been celebrated for its alpine vistas, proximity to Glacier National Park, and laid-back charm. But now, it's carving out a name on the national stage for something else entirely: exceptional food and wine. Back for its second year from September 8–14, 2025, the [Whitefish Food & Wine Festival](#) is quickly becoming one of the fall's most sought-after culinary events.

The festival debuted in 2024, co-founded by acclaimed 4x James Beard Award-winning chef Todd English, local entrepreneur and investor Joe Hess, and global event producer Ryan Heil. Their goal? To create a festival that seamlessly fuses high-level culinary talent and experiences with the authenticity and spirit of Montana. What they delivered is a rare mix of sophistication and soul.

One key element that distinguishes the Whitefish Food & Wine Festival is its stunning venue. Held primarily at **Haskill Creek Farms**, the event unfolds among rolling pastures, shaded trails, and panoramic skies—offering an immersive connection to the land. From the moment guests arrive, it's clear: this isn't your typical food and wine gathering. It's expansive, elevated, and deeply personal.

Programming throughout the week is designed to spark the senses. The festival centerpiece, the Grand Tasting, boasts over 100 selections of wine, beer, and spirits alongside plates from standout local restaurants and guest chefs. On the Grand Tasting Live Stage, live culinary competitions, chef demos, and interactive workshops keep the energy high and the audience engaged.

But the most unforgettable experiences often happen far beyond the tasting tent. In 2025, the festival doubles down on its immersive “nature-forward” offerings. From “Sip & SUP”—a serene paddleboarding and wine tasting adventure on glacial lakes—to guided hikes culminating in sparkling wine picnics, guests are invited to savor the outdoors as much as the cuisine. The week also features a “Farm to Foraged to Table” dinner under the stars, celebrating ingredients gathered directly from Montana’s wild and cultivated lands.

For those in search of something more exclusive, a series of ticketed pairing dinners await. These special nights at top Whitefish restaurants unite renowned visiting chefs with local culinary stars for one-night-only collaborations. From slow-roasted elk with bold cabernet to wild huckleberries paired with dessert wine, each dish is a love letter to Montana’s seasonal bounty.

Still, indulgence isn’t the only focus. In its inaugural year, the festival supported local organizations dedicated to improving food access and education. In 2025, two new nonprofit partners will be announced, with select events designed to benefit their missions directly.

“The community has embraced this festival in a way that’s been incredibly rewarding,” says co-founder Joe Hess. “We’re not just bringing people here to eat and drink—we’re creating lasting connections between visitors and Whitefish itself.”

That spirit of connection permeates every moment of the festival. There are no exclusive lounges or velvet ropes. Attendees share space—and stories—with chefs, winemakers, and artisans. Whether sipping rosé post-demo or chatting under the pines, the lines between guest and host blur in the best possible way.

Tickets are now available, and accommodations are booking up fast. Whether you’re a dedicated foodie, a nature enthusiast, or simply someone craving an unforgettable autumn escape, Whitefish Food & Wine offers a singular experience that blends the best of culinary excellence with Montana’s natural magic.

It’s more than a festival. It’s a celebration of taste, place, and purpose—and it’s not to be missed.



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