

Introducing from Roth Cellars:

Monroe



We are so excited to announce the release of our newest cheese: “Monroe” from Roth Cellars in Monroe, Wisconsin!

What is Monroe?! Smear-ripened cheeses are our specialty and we wanted to break from our Alpine Roots to develop a soft, washed rind cheese that would show off our superior milk quality and our love for the craft of cheesemaking. Monroe is a pasteurized, double cream cheese (~60% FDM) made in very small batches - only 80, 1.6 lb wheels per week! Unlike the cooked curd, Alpine style Grand Cru and Roth’s Private Reserve, Monroe’s curds must be handled more carefully with special attention given to maintaining uniform curd size. The delicate curds are ladled into forms and not pressed so you will notice a more open textured paste. The small wheels are turned and smeared for 23 days with a brine containing yeasts and *b. linens* that differs slightly from our Grand Cru Cheeses and aged on Spruce boards in our cellars in good company with our other smear-ripened cheeses.

Wheels are released after 25 – 30 days and young wheels will have a bright, up-front acidity balanced with lactic notes and breadly, yeasty flavors with a hint of the characteristic funkiness that we expect from *b. linens*. As Monroe ages, the acidity diminishes gradually and the rind will soften slightly yielding to more pronounced, classic washed rind flavors and more sweetness in the paste. The paste will also soften from proteolysis but will not likely become very runny as some others in this category.



Monroe is also the focus of a University of Wisconsin Intern working with our cheesemakers and affineurs while working toward her Master Cheesemaker Certification. We are proud to say that Monroe was awarded a score of 99.45 at the 2018 World Championship Cheese Contest held in early March. That is just .40 of a point shy of the Gold Award winner!

Remember that Monroe is very limited but will be available all year.

Enjoy!

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