



The Journal



Can we stomach the latest emerging food innovations?



Sip and Stroll With a New Winter Park Wine Tour In central Florida



Oscartek Provino and Diamond at the Wine Room Kitchen and Bar

November 1st, 2021 by Brooke Fehr; Strolling along Park Avenue in Winter Park is one of my favorite things to do in Central Florida. So when I learned of a new wine stroll created specifically for foodies, I was intrigued. Enter the Winter Park Wine Walk, the first wine stroll launched by husband and wife duo Bryce Morrison and Carla Rhodes, creators of Tours and Travel for Foodie Fans. Morrison believes that tours are an excellent way to learn about an area. “As a traveler and a travel advisor, I believe tours are one of the best ways to quickly discover foodie destinations in an area. The Winter Park Wine Walk is built to reflect everything I look for in a great foodie tour,” he shared.

While I already know a thing or two about Winter Park, I couldn’t pass up Bryce’s invitation to join him for one of his first tours. So on a beautiful day in March, I set out to meet him at the rendezvous point as I looked forward to experiencing Park Avenue through their eyes.

Prior to the tour, Bryce sent me an email with lots of helpful information. We were to meet at the Winter Park Train Station—a great option, since parking there is a breeze. He also provided his phone number in case I was running late or needed to make contact.

When I arrived, our group of around 12 people had already assembled. We had two couples among our numbers as well as a group of

friends celebrating a birthday. I could tell this would be a breezy, fun afternoon. We made our way to our first stop at a comfortable pace, as everyone chatted and became acquainted.

I was excited to experience Tabla for the first time. Since it had moved into its spot in the Shops of Park Avenue during 2020, I had yet to visit. We actually dined at a table outside the restaurant proper—a sort of sidewalk experience, but inside.

I wasn't sure exactly what to expect, but portions were hearty. After attentive staff took our wine orders (a two-ounce pour of either the house white or red), our plates started to arrive. They included three courses: a flavorful, brothy Soup to start, along with a Vegetable Samosa; and Butter Chicken with both rice and naan. We were also treated to Gulab Jamun, a sweet made of a type of fritter soaked in a rose water-flavored sugar syrup.



Rustic Interior at the Wine Room Kitchen and Bar

Sip, Savor and Nosh at The Ancient Olive

After such a substantial lunch (I didn't clean my plate; I wanted to pace myself), we took a short walk to our next stop, The Ancient Olive. Tucked into a space in The Hidden Garden just off of Park Avenue, this is your one-stop shop for premium olive oils and aged balsamic vinegars. Our host walked us through some of the shop's offerings, which go beyond oil and vinegar to sauces, cheeses, crackers and more. It's a gourmet lover's dream spot. While there, we had the chance to sample oils, and learned how to taste them to unlock the full aromatic potential in each. It was enlightening to slurp oils from different countries and detect the subtle nuances in flavor.

During the stop, we were also treated to samples of the shop's sauces, olives and other goodies. Afterward, there was plenty of time to chat with our host and browse the shelves of treasures to take home. theancientolive.com

Something Sweet at Choulala

Our next stop took us to Choulala Fine Pastries, a sweet little pastry shop located right on Park Avenue.

Step inside the petite space and prepare to be dazzled by a stunning array of pastries, from the pate a choux puffs for which the shop is named, to eclairs, macarons and entremets that are almost too pretty to eat.

We were greeted by Chef Stephanie Krupp, who talked a little about the shop's offerings. As part of the tour, we could each choose a puff or a macaron. In addition, we were treated to our choice of a Prosecco float, an effervescent cocktail made with Italy's famous sparkling wine and a scoop of the shop's gelato or sorbet. As an alternative, we had the option to choose an Affogato, an espresso over a scoop of gelato.

I chose pistachio because, well, I can never have too much pistachio. ☺

It paired beautifully with my float, a combo of Prosecco and puckery passionfruit gelato. And let me tell you—if there is something more pleasurable than sipping gelato-laden Prosecco on Park Avenue in the middle of a Monday afternoon, I haven't found it yet. Go.

Do this. You'll be glad you did. choulala.com

Swirl the Day Away at The Wine Room

Up to this point, we had enjoyed a fair amount of walking, wine-ing and noshing, but the grand finale was a stop at The Wine Room. Have you been before? It's a fun experience. More than 150 wines are available in 1-, 2.5- or 5-ounce pours, via the spot's Enomatic wine dispensers.

Armed with a pre-paid card, you simply slide the card into the machine, follow the instructions on the screen and make your selection.

As part of the tour, each guest receives a card pre-loaded with \$20 to sample at will.

The wine bar also offers a full menu of small plates, which can be purchased separately.

As part of our experience, Bryce also treated us to a taste of one his personal wines that he keeps in his own case locker, another service that The Wine Room offers. If you're looking for a spot to secure valuable wines, you might want to check out this offering.

thewineroomonline.com

Whiling away the day, strolling one of Central Florida's prettiest drives and eating and drinking delicious things...how could you go wrong? I enjoyed this curated experience, and look forward to trying Bryce's other tours, which he hopes to launch in Winter Garden and Mount Dora soon.

Here are a few details, in case you're looking to book your own wine walk:

Price: \$65 per person, ages 21 and up

Duration: 3.5 hours

Advice: Wear comfortable shoes and plan on sunglasses and possibly sunscreen or a hat. Also, at least for now, plan to have a mask for times that you're indoors and you're not eating or drinking.

What to bring: Gratuities are not included, so it's a good idea to have some cash for tipping, especially during lunch. Also, plan to bring some spending money, in case you'd like to shop at The Ancient Olive, or take a bottle home from The Wine Room.

Ways they give back: As a former member of the armed services, Bryce is passionate about helping veterans and their families. \$5 from each tour benefits the Shift Colors Project, which helps service members and their families readjust to civilian life.

To learn more about other Tours and Travel for Foodie Fans or the Shift Colors Project, visit their websites.

Can we stomach the latest emerging food innovations?

November 2d, 2021 By Angela Henshall from BBC world service; As world leaders gather in Glasgow, and prepare to chow down at numerous COP26 buffets, food technologists urgently want them to grasp the role alternative proteins might play combatting climate Change. Researchers in many countries are looking for alternatives to traditional meat because farming animals is helping to drive up global temperatures.

Even Hollywood stars have been jumping on the alternative protein bandwagon with Leonardo Di Caprio among the most vocal. But aside from film stars, where are Wall Street and some of Europe's biggest institutional investors putting their money?

We take a look at three of the hottest areas of this deliciously weird science.

Grow a burger

In future, a lot more "beef" in fast-food burgers could be grown in a laboratory. Our thirst for non-dairy milk is already huge. One in three Brits now drink plant-based milk on a regular basis, says retail sector analyst Mintel. So, perhaps regularly eating meat that's never mooed, oinked, or encountered a farm may be a logical next step? No longer just the vision of a Margaret Atwood novel stuffed with chickienobs, in December 2020, Singapore became the first country to approve the sale of protein grown entirely in a laboratory.

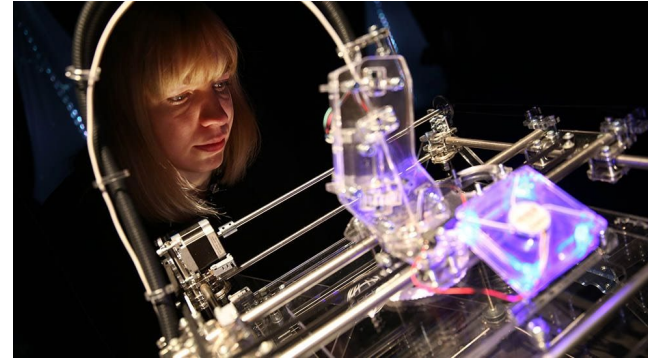
Scientists start by harvesting muscle cells from an animal, nutrients are steadily then added to feed those cells and grow the meat into tissue - this stew is called the cell media, which is then cultivated.

San Francisco-based start-up, Eat Just, is now selling its lab-grown chicken nuggets in Singapore, a move that's part of the country's long-term security strategy so it can be less dependent on its neighbours for food imports.

Eat Just chicken nuggets are now on sale in Singapore

So, what are the barriers to many other countries doing the same? "The real driver for all of this is getting regulatory approval," says Dr Carsten Gerhardt, a partner at consultancy, Kearney, which analyses the food and agriculture sectors.

Some countries have more appetite for this than others. In Europe, the Netherlands is at the forefront of lab-grown meat technology where analysts expect producers Moas Meat and Meatable to push for EU regulatory approval in the next few years. In the US, it is widely expected that Bill Gates-backed Memphis Meats and New Age Meats will do the same.



But regulation isn't the only hurdle to scaling-up and expanding the cultured-meat business, bringing down ingredient costs will be crucial.

Most producers are still working with pharmaceutical-grade ingredients and nutrients, but if "those could be lowered to normal food quality grades instead, then costs would come down significantly", explains Mr Gerhardt.

One part of the standard recipe involves growing cells in a syrupy bath of Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS), taken from pregnant cows' blood but Dutch scientists have now successfully replaced it and other animal components in its process.

A Mosa Meat meatball

Meat-less meatball: Mosa Meat has found alternatives to using animal components in its production "For ethical reasons, as well as for the simple reason FBS is very expensive and we could never produce meat at large scale for a broadly accessible price, we've succeeded in developing our own entirely animal component-free growth media," "a company spokesperson for Mosa says.



Still, farming meat in a lab is a slow, energy-intensive process and optimising this will also mean making the series of heating and cooling steps involved, much more energy efficient, although Jessica Almy, vice president of policy at The Good Food Institute says some producers are not that far off.

Two separate studies out earlier this year found that, with investment, the production cost of cultivated meat could drop to compete with conventional meat by 2030. The Life Cycle study showed cultivated meat is also projected to comprise a staggering 35% of the global meat market by 2040.

Several glowing reports suggest lab-grown meat may bring big environmental benefits - lower emissions plus less land and water usage than conventional farming. However, a more recent US study on expanding in-vitro production warns those benefits could come at the expense of much more intensive energy use as the whole process moves away from agriculture and becomes industrialised.

Cyrille Filott, global strategist for consumer foods for Rabobank, says the question is how many boxes the lab grown product will tick for "early adopters" to remain interested. "Taste, texture, price, sustainability, a long list of boxes. Will the novelty wear off or stick?"

Mr Filott adds that an important intermediate milestone will be the acceptance of hybrid products. Hybrid products are plant-based meat substitutes that contain lab grown ingredients such as fats. If these products are accepted by the consumer, he says the development of fully lab-grown products might accelerate.

3-D printers can be pre-programmed to slowly build liquid food layers in to almost any shape
IMAGE SOURCE,GETTY IMAGES

Image caption,

3-D printers can be pre-programmed to slowly build liquid food layers in to almost any shape
Print a burger

A handful of firms are now working on 3D printers that could construct this dinner while you wait, by printing thousands of pre-programmed, sliver-thin layers, stacked on top of each other.



The "ink" used is your food in paste format: printers that can design bespoke pancakes, ice cream and confectionery are already popular in some high-end supermarkets.

However, Ms Almy says companies are now testing the water with much more sophisticated versions. 3D bio-printing can print cells and materials together to create a more complex structured product, like a marbled beef steak.

New Tech Economy is a series exploring how technological innovation is set to shape the new emerging economic landscape. Extrusion technologies which have been used in the food industry for years - think hot dogs and pasta - are also being applied successfully in cultivated meat production. Barcelona firm Novameat has come up with one of the most realistic alternative meat products so far, thanks in part to its founder Giuseppe Scionti's expertise in bioengineering and tissue regeneration.

It uses micro-extrusion tech to intricately print plant-based proteins in layers that build up in to a large cut of meat strong enough, and with the right texture, to be sliced with a carving knife, like a Sunday roast.

plant-based burger on a shelf

Bringing down costs will be crucial if plant-based meat substitutes are to achieve mass-market sales

Working with the faculty of biomedical engineering at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Israel-based firm Aleph Farms also created the worlds' first lab grown rib eye steak in this way, using 3D printing, in February.

Alternatively, 3D printing can be used to create scaffolds from plant-based materials that allow cells to attach and grow into the final meat-based product. And if all this wasn't exciting enough, some printers then zap the result with lasers that will sizzle the food until it is cooked.

Wrap a burger

Nanotechnology, or the science of manoeuvring teeny-tiny things around, is more commonly talked about in the manufacture of chips for phones, than fries. However, it also has many potential applications in the food sector. Using miniscule nanomaterials it is now possible to create packaging that keeps the products held inside edible for longer.

Nanopack is a cling-film-like prototype for packaging that has smaller-than-the-eye-can-see mineral nanotubes dispersed inside it - these hold natural essential oils from plants like oregano and thyme with antimicrobial properties.

The nanotubes slowly release antimicrobial oils from the film into the headspace of the packaged food which actively slows down oxidation, moisture changes and microbial growth, says Prof Ester Segal from Technion-Israel Institute of Technology who oversaw the project.

Early experiments showed the film prevented the growth of mould in bread by three weeks and extended the sale time of fresh cherries and shelf life of cheese by 40% and 50%, respectively.

The supermarket of the future may go even further, incorporating intelligent food packaging with tiny nanosensors, which Dr Seda Erdem at Stirling University adds may "report and relay" updated information back to the shopper about their contents.

3D printed confectionary

3D printed sweets and chocolates are already making their way on to the high street

And what about when it comes to manipulating the food itself? Research from several countries shows almost endless possibilities - to enhance the flavour and texture of foods, reduce fat content, or to encapsulate nutrients such as vitamins to ensure they do not degrade during a product's shelf life.

In this area however, UK regulator, The Food Standards Agency in its latest report still seems a little queasy, taking a very a cautious stance as it remains unclear what the long-term impact of tinkering with these tiny building blocks could be on the rest of the food chain.



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