



Meet the Grower

Schnabeltier Cheese Rochester, IN

Opened for business in October 2014, Schnabeltier is the region's first Artisan Cheesemaker & Farm Winery and the only facility in the Midwest focusing primarily on cheese and wine production. Our goal is to achieve flavors in our wines that specifically complement our cheese selection, and bring Old World European flavor and artisan quality to the Midwest.

Schnabeltier uses top quality, locally sourced milk from a small family farm located in Bourbon, Indiana. The herd at Lemler Farms consists of around 80 Guernsey's, Milking Shorthorns, Brown Swiss and Ayrshires. None of the cows are numbered, each cow has a name, and the farmers know each of the cows by sight. All of the cows are grass fed and free to roam the large pastures around the farm. The entire herd is hormone free and the farm is certified.

The milk Schnabeltier gets from Lemler Farms is RBST free and high in butterfat and protein, giving their artisan cheeses the best possible flavor! Schnabeltier's cheesemakers haul all of the milk from the farm directly to Schnabeltier where it is tested in the on-site lab to ensure consistent quality both upon arrival and before off-loading.

The cheese making room at Schnabeltier is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment imported from the Netherlands. The vat can hold up to 250 gallons of milk and make up to 300 lbs of cheese per batch. The large humidity and temperature controlled aging room features hand built, local oak shelving for cheese aging and wine storage. Schnabeltier can currently produce up to 500 lbs of cheese per day and hold over 10 tons of cheese in the aging room!

The name Schnabeltier is the German word for platypus. The platypus has "all the good things" from several animals - beaver tail for powerful swimming, a duck bill for scooping up food, webbed feet for propulsion, and not to mention those extremely poisonous spurs that give it a little bit of bad-assery! The management team of Schnabeltier frequents Germany and asked their children what souvenirs they wanted. The oldest daughter collected toy stuffed platypuses and would always ask for one. It was very trying to find a stuffed platypus in Germany, let alone explain what it was. They found out that Schnabeltier meant platypus in German! The name has a special meaning in their hearts and they hope that their cheeses will make the name special to you!



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