

# Vail Daily

## Farmers' markets run all summer

**Nic Corbett**  
**June 15, 2006**

EAGLE COUNTY - This isn't your ordinary country farmers' market.

Sunday marks the start of the festive fifth-annual Vail Farmers' Market and Art Show, one of the three largest farmers' markets in Colorado, and it is anything but just shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Meadow Drive will be alive with jazz musicians jamming, children riding ponies and reindeers, artisans showing off their paintings, sculptures and jewelry, and the smell of delicious lunch wafting from the tents restaurants will set up, in addition to the freshly picked produce the market is known for.

A different group of three bands will play each Sunday from the Covered Bridge to Village Plaza. T

Children will be able to get their face painted, bounce in an air castle and try playing violins, cellos, flutes and trombones at the Bravo! "instrument petting zoo."

"We asked (the customers) what don't we have that they're looking for, and a number of them said activities for the kids, because looking at fruits and vegetables isn't the most exciting thing for kids to do," said Rick Scalpello, who helps organize Vail's market.

There will also be more of an emphasis on the arts at the market. Visitors may take a guided gallery walk, a new activity this year. Scalpello said the artwork brings a whole other group of people to the market.

"We were looking for activities that would keep people at the market longer," Scalpello said.

Those looking for a snack or an afternoon meal can head over to the restaurant tents to buy food from Alpenrose, Joe's Deli, Campo de Fiori, China Garden, La Cantina, Left Bank and Swiss Chalet. Starbucks will also be handing out samples.

Nonprofit organizations, such as the Freedom Park Memorial committee and the Vail Valley Rotary, were given free space to set up tents to raise money.

Becky Williamson of Miller Farms unpacks tomatoes for display along with carrots, pea pods, strawberries, potatoes and more at the Edwards Farmers Market last season. The market returns Saturday.  
**Daily file photo/Shane Macomber**



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### Vail Market beginning



Because of the hot weather, sweet corn will peak earlier this season. Look for Colorado's famed sweet kernels at the

Vail's Market started four years ago with a couple merchants from Meadow Drive getting together, said Marty Stewart, treasurer and board member of Meadow Drive Properties, which puts on the market.

"We formed a business association of all the businesses on Meadow Drive and surveyed the businesses as to what would be the single most important thing we could do to help them," Scalpello said, "and their response was, 'Bring foot traffic to Meadow Drive.'"

During a brainstorming session, one of the members came up with the idea of a farmer's market.

The Vail market has expanded about 20 tents each year to what will be 100 tents filled with vendors' wares.

farmers' markets around town.

**Special to the Daily**

"Growth is very controlled," Scalpello said. "We could have grown faster. We've turned away more vendors than accepted."

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Scalpello said the organizers have been careful about not bringing in direct competition for local vendors.

"We attempt to manage the number of vendors that sell a particular product so all the vendors do well enough that they'll want to come back," he said.

Last year, the market attracted 75,000 visitors. This year, organizers project 100,000 visitors.

"The main thing is to help the local businesses," said Marty Stewart, who owns Sunland Silver Gallery on Meadow Drive. "We're all merchants and we come out to the farmer's market, too."

Scalpello estimates about two-thirds of the vendors are local, while a third are from out of town, coming from as far away as Fort Collins.

**Edwards Farmers' Market**

This Saturday, there will be a smaller farmers' market in Edwards with 30 tents, partly to accommodate the farmers, who travel from faraway places, Stewart said.

"It's a long journey for them, so we have two places," he said. "It's more worthwhile for them."

Scalpello, director of the Edwards market said the organizers also recognized Edwards as a major population area and thought it should have a market as well.

Edwards' market usually attracts locals and is more "functional," Scalpello said. There won't be crafts or bands, but they might play some recorded music.

"We tried musical groups in Edwards last year, and we found they did not really contribute to the ambiance," he said.

Since the locals are mainly at the Edwards market to do their weekly food shopping, the same festive atmosphere at Vail's market would not fit, Scalpello said.

"It would be like having a three-piece band in Safeway," he said.

The market will feature flash frozen seafood from Alaska, meat from Colorado, wine from the state's vineyards, pastry, bread and pie.

**Farmers' markets schedule**

Vail Farmers' Market

Sundays, June 18 - Sept. 24

9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Meadow Drive in from Sonnenalp Resort to the Covered Bridge

Free parking at the Vail Village parking structure

Edwards Farmers' Market

Saturdays, June 17 - Sept. 23

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Edwards Corner across from Riverwalk

Free parking and pets are welcome

Minturn Market

Musical acts this Saturday:

Main tent

• Accordion Man 9 to 11 a.m.

• Tony Gulizia Trio 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Second Tent - Courtyard of Molly G. Building

• Mark Trevino and Kayte Kelly 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Minturn Market**

**Factoid**

Last year, the market attracted 75,000 visitors. This year, organizers project 100,000 visitors.

The eighth year of the Minturn Market also begins Saturday and its organizers promise it's beefed up and even more varied than years past.

"Bigger," Karen Early said about the market. "The merchandise sold through the booths is better and even more eclectic. We're trying to make it as different as we can for a unique market."

What exactly can people who venture into the market do?

"They can gather and relax and have fun with their friends and shop and eat and talk ... and shop," Earley said. "We're never going to get too big, but it's enough so we have variety."

More than 100 vendors are setting up tents to sell food, clothes, jewelry, fresh produce and flowers among other items. Several musical

acts are scheduled to perform at the market's main tent, while a new tent has sprouted up for entertainment in the courtyard of the Molly G. Building.

Also new, beer will be served July 1 through Aug. 12 at Molly G. There will be clowns, pony pictures and puppet shows for children.

The best place to park is at the U.S. Forest Service station north of Minturn. A free shuttle is available to catch a ride into town. Everyone who parks at the station also receives a \$1 coupon, good on purchases \$10 and over at vendor stations.

Staff writer J.K. Perry contributed to this report.

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Vail, Colorado

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