

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2008

## Tierra Miguel CSA - Pledge Year Starts Next Week

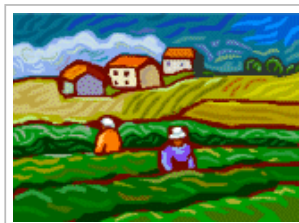
Unlike San Francisco, Los Angeles doesn't have many options for participating in a "CSA" or [community supported agriculture](#) program. That fact, however, doesn't stop the Southland press corps from occasionally publishing a piece on the benefits of buying produce fresh from the farm. Of course, these articles light up food discussion boards, like [Chowhound](#), with questions about pricing, options and quality.



The general consensus is that the best, if not the only, CSA option in town is provided by the [Tierra Miguel Foundation](#). The Tierra Miguel Foundation is a relatively young nonprofit that operates a farm in North San Diego County. The Foundation's first action was to transform the existing monocrop of strawberries, which had already been planted when the Foundation began leasing the farm in September of 2000, into row crops suitable to begin a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

According to the Foundation, the CSA connects people to the place they live and to the people in their community. It allows them to share the responsibility for stewardship of the land and its resources. For \$2100, subscribers receive a year's share of the Farm's produce and, in turn, assume some of the risk that is inherent with farming. The steady income generated by the CSA method of distribution helps protect the farmers against seasonal fluctuations in income resulting from adverse conditions, which have plagued farms since the beginning of time.

For 46 weeks of the year, the shareholder receives a box full of seasonal, certified, organic produce (CCOF) direct from the Farm. The most recent Tierra Miguel delivery, the last of 2007-2008 pledge year, contained basil, melon, lettuce, cucumbers,



### About Us

Hobson's Choice

One of us is Los Angeles based, the other calls San Francisco home. One was born and raised in rural Illinois, the other in Silicon Valley. We met in law school in 2000 in the Bay Area and immediately realized that we shared an obsession for all things related to food and drink. For years we discussed the possibility of starting a food blog and in 2008, Hobson's Choice finally came to pass.

[View my complete profile](#)

### Contact Us

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### Why Hobson's Choice

Thomas Hobson (1544-1631) was a man of relatively humble status from Cambridge, England who ran both a livery stable and a carrier business. When not using his horses for the mail service, he would rent them out to students of nearby Cambridge university. Hobson soon discovered that his fastest horses were the most popular, and therefore, overworked. To prevent their further exhaustion, Hobson devised a strict rotation system, only allowing customers to rent the next horse in line. His policy, "this one or none," has come to be known as a "Hobson's choice."

Hobson was eighty-six when he died, having served the university

cherry tomatoes, carrots, summer squash, oranges, the first butternut squash of the year, radishes, heirloom tomatoes and mizuna.

In addition to receiving the produce boxes, many members of the CSA group visit the Farm on a regular basis and spend time actually working with the crops and the soil. Many believe that this involvement with the land and the production of food offers profound cultural, social and psychological benefits to the members of the public who are involved. The beautiful rural environment presents a respite from city life and introduces the young and the not-so-young to the wonders of plant growth and beauty of nature.



By word of mouth and through staff presentations to various organizations discussing this creative option for purchasing superior organic food, Tierra Miguel's goal is to grow the CSA membership to 400.

If you are interested in joining, [download the pledge form here](#) and mail it in today. The first delivery of the new year starts next week. See below for a list of current delivery locations.



Fallbrook (92028) • San Clemente (92672) • Newport Beach (92660) • Costa Mesa (92627) • Long Beach (90804) • Lawndale /Torrence (90502) • Manhattan Beach (90266) • Mar Vista (90066) • Cheviot Hills (90034) • Westside J.C.C. (90036) • Valley Village (91607) • Van Nuys (91401) • Granada Hills (91344) • Murrieta (92562) • Riverside (92506) • Redlands (92373) • Rancho Cucamonga (91737) • Claremont (91711) • Sierra Madre (91024) • Pasadena/CalTech (91125) • South Pasadena (91030) • Highland Park (90031) • Eastern Columbia Bldg. (90014) • Echo Park/Silverlake (90026) • Burbank (91506) • Glendale (91201) • La Canada (91011) • Altadena (91001)

Posted by Hobson's Choice at [9:30 PM](#)

Labels: [Farm to Table](#), [Groceries](#), [Los Angeles](#), [Trends](#)

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for over sixty years by driving his coach between The Bull, a London inn, and the university, carrying students, guests, letters, and sometimes parents. Despite his humble status, Hobson was eulogized by no less than the English poet John Milton.

Henry Ford was said to have sold the Ford Model T with the famous Hobson's choice of "... any colour ... so long as it is black" as the rapid production required quick-drying paint, which from 1915-1925 was available in just the one color.

From that quote, comes the impetus for our blog - Hobson's choice. Any food ... so long as it is delicious.

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