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The Pizza Tour

Tasty tidbits about pizza

The calendar is dotted with various holidays that celebrate pizza. From National Pizza Pie Day in February to National Deep Dish Pizza Day in April to National Cheese Pizza Day in September, not to mention National Pizza Month in October, any time of year is the perfect opportunity to bite into a slice.



For most people, the best part of pizza is eating it, but that doesn't mean you can't still learn something about this all-time favorite food as well. The following are some tasty tidbits about pizza,

courtesy of Fact City, Pizza Need and Facts Legend.

- Pizza is tied to Greece. Greeks are credited with creating the first pizza-like food. The Greeks used to bake flat, round large breads that were then topped with vegetables, potatoes, spices, and olive oil. However, the first commercial pizza and pizzeria has been traced to the 19th century and the Italian city of Naples.
- Not all pizza is flat. While crispy, low-profile pies may be classic, other varieties of pizza have their fans. "Deep dish" pizza originated in 1943 in the Chicago eatery Pizzeria Uno. Sfincione, or focaccia pizza, a type of pizza made in a sheet pan with thicker slices, was created in the mid-19th century in Sicily. It is popularly called Sicilian pizza.
- Pizza is even more popular on certain days of the year. Pizza can be enjoyed any day of the year, but Super Bowl Sunday, New Year's Eve, Halloween, Thanksgiving Eve, and New Year's Day are the top five days for pizza sales. In addition, pizza accounts for more than 10 percent of all food service sales.
- Pizza is booming. In the United States, the pizza industry makes up 17 percent of all restaurants and grosses more than \$30 billion every year. The highest-grossing single-unit independent pizzeria in the United States is Moose's Tooth Pub and Pizzeria in Anchorage, Alaska. Its annual sales are approximately \$6 million.
- Pizza is popular everywhere. Around the world, about three billion pizzas are sold each year.
- Pizza is a weekend favorite. While Friday may be pizza night for many people, sales figures indicate that Saturday night is the most popular night to eat pizza.
- Pizza has a symbiotic relationship with certain foods. The pizza industry has helped propel both the cheese and pepperoni industry. Around 251 million pounds of pepperoni are consumed each year in the United States.
- Hawaiian pizza is popular, though not accurately named. Ham and pineapple are popular pizza toppings on the West coast of the United States, and this pizza is dubbed the Hawaiian pizza. However, it doesn't have any connection to Hawaii. This pizza actually was invented in Canada.

Pizza is a perennial favorite and one of the most popular foods of all time.

Take a bite out of popular pizza styles

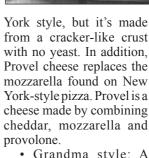
Pizza is pizza, right? Not guite. This beloved cheeseand-sauce-crafted masterpiece is much more complex than fans may imagine. At its core, pizza consists of a crust, sauce and a cheese. But pizza can be crafted in myriad ways thanks to toppings and crust styles. But wait, there's more. As it turns out, pizza, which TripSavvy notes is a \$30 billion global industry, has many different incarnations.

Pizza was first introduced in North America in the late 1800s when thousands of Italian immigrants arrived. Nowadays pizza is part of just about everyone's common vernacular and diet. CiCi's, a popular pizza chain, found that one-third of pizza eaters eat pizza at least once a week. The following are some of the many different pizza types that can be enjoyed, and what makes them unique.

- Neapolitan: This is the original pizza that arrived in the 19th century from Italy, and the pizza from which all others have evolved. The dough is made from a specific type of flour, and the crust is thin, crunchy and baked in a wood-fired oven. Neapolitan will have minimal toppings. A scant amount of San Marzano tomato sauce, slices of buffalo mozzarella cheese and basil are all that's needed.
- New York style: Most East coast pizza is considered New York style. Originating on the streets of New York City, this pie is exemplified by wide slices of a crunchy, pliable crust that is light on sauce but heavy on cheese.
- Chicago style: Also known as deep-dish, the Pizzeria Uno restaurant in Chicago developed the deep-dish pizza in the 1940s. The pizza is made in a pan similar to a large

metal cake or pie pan, and the crust lines its entirety. Typically, the toppings are assembled upside-down, with cheese, vegetables and meats placed on the crust, and then tomato sauce as the final layer to help this pizza cook all the way through.

- · Sicilian: This is a thick-crusted pizza with a pillowy dough and crunchy crust. The pizza is formed in a square pan. Oftentimes, the cheese is underneath the sauce to prevent the pie from becoming soggy. Some people refer to the Sicilian as a "square." The famed L&B Spumoni Gardens in Brooklyn, NY, has its own unique take on the square that has been feeding fans for decades.
- St. Louis style: This pizza is a variation on New

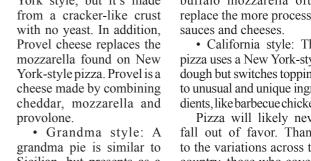


Sicilian, but presents as a thinner, crunchier alternative. Fresh tomatoes and

buffalo mozzarella often replace the more processed

 California style: This pizza uses a New York-style dough but switches toppings to unusual and unique ingredients, like barbecue chicken.

Pizza will likely never fall out of favor. Thanks to the variations across the country, those who covet a slice have many different options at their disposal.





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The Pizza Tour

Find these hidden words in the word grid:

Bacon

Black Olives

Cheese

Pizza Chicken

Dough

Green Olives

Green Peppers

Ham

Mozzarella

Mushrooms

Onions

Oregano

Pepperoni

Sausage

Tomato Sauce

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