

## Connie Bennett, DeLaurenti Specialty Food & Wine

Raised in an Italian family, Connie grew up in her parents' kitchen learning the joys of cooking and developing a passion for fine foods and cheese. Customers at DeLaurenti can expect to experience this same passion when they find Connie behind the counter serving up orders of cheese to regular customers or giving a taste to cheese skeptics.

After a post-college move to Seattle, Connie became a loyal DeLaurenti customer. Her life then led her to Alaska before returning the last time to Seattle where she joined the DeLaurenti team in 1990. Since coming to DeLaurenti, Connie has become a welcome ambassador for artisanal cheese farmers and producers to DeLaurenti customers. Her vast knowledge and apparent passion for cheese is readily shared with customers and staff. Connie learned from her past career in social service that listening is the key to learning what will make the customer happy. A few minutes with Connie and even the most skeptical of customers will find themselves appreciating a fresh sheep's milk cheese or a tangy blue. Connie believes that to learn about cheese you must experience it through taste.

When not talking cheese and buying cheese to fill the cases at DeLaurenti, Connie loves to share her love for food with friends and family by making some of the same dishes as her father. And yes, there is a cheese plate waiting for her guests when they arrive.

