

Cowboy's Meat Market & Deli

If casual is the new cool, Cowboy's Meat Market might just be the coolest. Cowboy's offers catered barbeques and an assortment of takeaway platters for weddings and special events. The market might not service the main event – the wedding – but it's more than capable of pleasing the masses throughout a wedding weekend.

"The majority of the events we do with weddings are either the family gathering on Thursday night or the rehearsal on Friday because people want a casual atmosphere, but they don't want to have to orchestrate every moment," said Laura McCloskey, who opened the mid-island market five years ago.

In addition to protecting customers' time, Cowboy's also tries to deliver the most value for customers' dollars.

"We're seeing people trying to get more bang for their buck." McCloskey said. "And that's where people look favorably to someone like us. We're not trying to do a seated event for 300 people; we're trying to do a casual barbeque in your backyard or a location you've rented."

As Nantucket's only year-round, full-service butcher shop, Cowboy's offers an extensive range of all-natural and organic meats and poultry, a comprehensive in-store wine selection, deli sandwiches made to order and arrays of pre-made meals and salads. Its signature, especially for catered events, is its barbeque sauce.



"Everyone loves barbeque sauce. It's right up there with ketchup," said McCloskey, who, before moving to Nantucket, was a New York City-based food writer for the Fort Worth (Texas) *Star-Telegram*.

McCloskey and her staff know barbeque. They know chicken and ribs and sides and condiments, too. And they know that their catering service invites customers to do what's most important: Spending time with family instead of worrying about who's doing the cooking.

"A barbeque atmosphere automatically sends a cool and inclusive vibe," McCloskey said. "It's the American Dream, in a way. Anyone can set up a grill and slap down a couple of burgers. It's very achievable and very understandable. But we do it, so you don't have to." ■

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