Chicago, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Kyoto, London, Lyon, Marrakech, New York City, Paris, Rome, San Francisco, Tokyo – these are some of the best foodie cities in the world, hosting some of the most internationally acclaimed restaurants. Though you would not yet place Denver in that same list, there may come a day when such a debate arises.

To be sure, the Denver metro area’s culinary scene is newer to the map, as many of its most exciting restaurants have opened only in the past twelve years. But exciting they truly are. Frasca and Fruition are two of the most highly acclaimed restaurants in the entire region. Mizuna and Osteria Marco continue to entice customers because of award-winning Chef Frank Bonnano’s talents. Chef Keegan Gerhard has brought both celebrity and baking genius with the dessert-themed D Bar. Old-world cuisine never tasted so fresh with Bistro Vendome, Rioja, and Z Cuisine Bistrot.

Root Down, Sushi Den, and Table 6 are part of a growing hub of restaurants combining warm, neighborhood atmospheres with elegant and succulent dishes. Places like Biker Jim’s and Tamayo are changing people’s perspectives on stereotypical cuisines.

Brunch is a major part of any Denverite’s weekend, and both Snooze and Lucile’s lead the pack in Sunday morning wait times.

Classic Denver staples such as Buckhorn Exchange, Cherry Cricket, Elway’s, The Market, and Zaidy’s remain as popular now as they ever have.

Many ethnic cuisines have become local staples, especially Vietnamese pho with Pho 95 leading the way.

Even the fast food industry has been strongly influenced by Denver, as Chipotle, Qdoba, Noodles & Co., Quiznos, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Garbanzos, Boston Market, and Smashburger were all founded in the Denver metro area.

And great restaurants continue to open their doors. The excitement surrounding Linger has been buzzing high ever since its 2011 opening. So though for now the Michelin Star remains elusive to the Denver culinary scene, there are plenty of wonderful options to appease any hardcore foodie’s palate. And personally – we doubt that Michelin Star remains elusive for much longer. We hope you enjoy Denver’s culinary offerings as much as we do.
• **BIKER JIM’S**
  - Cuisine: Hot Dogs
  - Attire: Casual (Street clothes)
  - Address: 2148 Larimer St
  - Proximity to DU: 7.5 miles
  - Website: www.bikerjimsdogs.com
  - Note: The highest rated Denver restaurant on Yelp.com, Jim’s offers a unique spin on hot dogs. Options include Alaska Reindeer, Elk Jalapeno Cheddar, Duck Cilantro, Rattle Snake and Pheasant, and “The Weiner Wellington.” Biker Jim’s has been featured on Travel Channel’s “No Reservations” and Sundance Channel’s “Ludo Bites” and was voted Westword’s “Best Dinner Under $10.” Originally a street cart (which is still in operation), Jim’s is a Denver culinary landmark.

• **BISTRO VENDOME**
  - Cuisine: French
  - Attire: Snappy (Casual, but respectable)
  - Address: 1424 Larimer St
  - Proximity to DU: 7.3 miles
  - Website: www.bistrovendome.com
  - Note: Nestled in an alley off Larimer Square, this Zagat-rated French bistro boasts one of the best patios in town, and it is the second collaboration between owners Beth Gruitch and Jennifer Jasinski. Indeed, the food matches the atmosphere in quality. Voted Westword’s “Best French Restaurant” in Denver. Reservations recommended.

• **BUCKHORN EXCHANGE**
  - Cuisine: Steakhouse
  - Attire: Snappy
  - Address: 1000 Osage St
  - Proximity to DU: 6.7 miles
  - Website: www.buckhorneXchange.com
  - Note: The oldest restaurant and liquor license in Denver, the steakhouse serves beef, ribs, buffalo, lamb, duck, quail, Cornish game hen, elk, yak, alligator, rattlesnake, and the renowned Rocky Mountain Oysters. The taxidermy motif is prevalent. Reservations recommended.

• **CHERRY CRICKET**
  - Cuisine: Hamburgers
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 2641 E 2nd Ave
  - Proximity to DU: 3 miles (Nearby!)
  - Website: www.cherrycricket.com
  - Note: A Denver landmark. Opened in 1950, the Cricket serves hamburgers with a variety of toppings from which to choose. It has appeared on Food Network’s “The Best Thing I Ever Ate” and “Man V Food.” They do not take reservations, so expect a wait.
• **D Bar**
  - **Cuisine:** Desserts
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 1475 E 17th Ave
  - **Proximity to DU:** 8.3 miles
  - **Website:** www.dbardesserts.com
  - **Note:** Focusing on the sweeter things in life, D Bar was created by Keegan Gerhard, who is “One of the Nation’s Top 10 Pastry Chefs,” according to both *Chocolatier* and *Pastry Art & Design* magazines. He has also often appeared on Food Network’s “Food Network Challenge.” The treats here are simply divine. They do not take reservations, so expect a wait.

• **Elway’s**
  - **Cuisine:** Steakhouse
  - **Attire:** Dressy (More formal than not)
  - **Address:** 2500 E 1st Ave
  - **Proximity to DU:** 2.9 miles (Nearby!)
  - **Website:** www.elways.com/Home.asp
  - **Note:** The traditional steakhouse is a staple of Colorado, much like the Legend himself. Voted *Westword*'s “Best French Fries” in Denver. Reservations recommended.

• **Euclid Hall**
  - **Cuisine:** German-American
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 1317 14th St
  - **Proximity to DU:** 6.7 miles
  - **Website:** www.euclidhall.com
  - **Note:** With one of the most extensive beer menus in beer-rich Colorado, this Bavarian-inspired American tavern is the third collaboration between owners Beth Gruitch and Jennifer Jasinski. Not only was it voted *Westword*'s “Best Pig Parts” in Denver, but their sausages are hand-cranked. Euclid was also voted *Westword*'s “Best Place to Pair Beer and Food,” and the beer menu is divided into categories by “mathematical complexity.”

• **Frasca Food and Wine**
  - **Cuisine:** Italian (Northern)
  - **Attire:** Dressy
  - **Address:** 1738 Pearl St Boulder, Colorado
  - **Proximity to DU:** 34.3 miles
  - **Website:** www.frascafoodandwine.com
  - **Note:** Rated the No. 1 restaurant in *5280 Magazine*’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area” and the No. 2 restaurant in Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants,” Frasca is not only one of the two best restaurants in the area, but arguably one of the best in the region overall. The food and wine menus are outstanding; the dishes are inspired by the cuisine from the northern Italian region of Friuli. Reservations recommended.
• **FRUITION**
  - **Cuisine:** American (New)
  - **Attire:** Dressy
  - **Address:** 1313 E 6th Ave
  - **Proximity to DU:** 3.9 miles (Nearby!)
  - **Website:** www.fruitionrestaurant.com
  - **Note:** Fruition rivals Frasca as one of the two best restaurants in the state. It is rated No. 1 in Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants,” No. 2 in 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area,” was voted Westword’s “Best New American Restaurant” in Denver and is the third highest-rated Denver restaurant on Yelp.com. Chef Alex Seidel’s sophisticated comfort food is exquisite, while Maitre d’ Paul is beyond accommodating. Reservations recommended.

• **LINGER**
  - **Cuisine:** Upscale Street Food
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 2030 W 30th Ave
  - **Proximity to DU:** 7.5 miles
  - **Website:** www.lingerdenver.com
  - **Note:** One of the newest installments to Denver’s fine culinary scene, Linger opened in June 2011 and has already made the list of 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area.” The diverse menu takes its inspiration from global “street food.” Voted both Westword’s “Best Restaurant Patio with a View” and “Best Martini” in Denver. One of Ali’s absolute favorites.

• **LUCILE’S CREOLE CAFÉ**
  - **Cuisine:** Cajun/Creole Brunch
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 275 S Logan St
  - **Proximity to DU:** 3.5 miles (Nearby!)
  - **Website:** www.luciles.com
  - **Note:** Lucile’s has been a Colorado favorite since 1980, serving Cajun/Creole inspired brunch dishes. They do not take reservations, so expect a wait.

• **THE MARKET**
  - **Cuisine:** Coffee and Sandwiches
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 1445 Larimer St
  - **Proximity to DU:** 7.3 miles
  - **Website:** www.themarketatlarimer.com
  - **Note:** A historic market in the middle of Larimer Square, The Market is an ideal place to lounge while sipping a latte, snacking on a scone, reading a book, and watching the day pass by.
• **MIZUNA**
  - **Cuisine:** American (New)
  - **Attire:** Dressy
  - **Address:** 225 E 7th Ave
  - **Proximity to DU:** 4.3 miles
  - **Website:** www.mizunadenver.com
  - **Note:** Award-winning Chef Frank Bonnano’s crowning achievement (for now), Mizuna is rated No. 3 in *5280 Magazine*’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area” and No. 5 in Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants.” Opened in 2001, Mizuna has led the way for finer dining in the Denver metro area. It has even appeared on Travel Channel’s “No Reservations.” Reservations recommended.

• **OSTERIA MARCO**
  - **Cuisine:** Italian, Pizza
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 1453 Larimer St
  - **Proximity to DU:** 7.3 miles
  - **Website:** www.osteriamarco.com
  - **Note:** One of “Denver’s most popular and critically acclaimed restaurants” argues time.com. It is also *Westword*’s “Best Gourmet Pizza” in Denver. One of Jill’s absolute favorites.

• **PHO 95**
  - **Cuisine:** Vietnamese
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 1002 S Federal Blvd
  - **Proximity to DU:** 4.9 miles
  - **Website:** www.pho95noodlehouse.com
  - **Note:** Pho 95 has one of the most ardent followings of *pho-natics* in Denver and is the second highest-rated Denver restaurant overall on Yelp.com. Though there are many alternatives, don’t be misled – 95 is the best pho in town.

• **RIOJA**
  - **Cuisine:** Mediterranean
  - **Attire:** Dressy
  - **Address:** 1431 Larimer St
  - **Proximity to DU:** 7.3 miles
  - **Website:** www.riojadenver.com
  - **Note:** The first collaboration between Beth Gruitch and Jennifer Jasinski, Rioja is one of the most acclaimed restaurants in Colorado. The menu is inspired by Mediterranean ingredients, and the restaurant is one of *5280 Magazine*’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area,” as well as rated No. 8 on Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants.” Reservations recommended.
• **ROOT DOWN**
  - **Cuisine:** American (New)
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 1600 W 33rd Ave
  - **Proximity to DU:** 7.8 miles
  - **Website:** www.rootdowndenver.com
  - **Note:** One of Denver’s hidden gems. Root Down follows a “field to fork” philosophy, and the globally influenced seasonal cuisine focuses on organic, natural, and local ingredients. Their brunch dishes are as stunning as their dinner dishes. Reservations recommended.

• **SNOOZE**
  - **Cuisine:** Breakfast and Brunch
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 2262 Larimer St
  - **Proximity to DU:** 7.8 miles
  - **Website:** www.snoozeeatery.com
  - **Note:** Founded by DU alums, Snooze is arguably the most popular brunch spot in Denver. It has such a large following that two-hour waits are not uncommon around 11 am on Sunday mornings. They do not take reservations, so we recommend you arrive early to avoid the crowd.

• **SUSHI DEN**
  - **Cuisine:** Japanese, Sushi Bar
  - **Attire:** Casual
  - **Address:** 1487 S Pearl St
  - **Proximity to DU:** 2 miles (Nearby!)
  - **Website:** www.sushiden.net
  - **Note:** Possibly the best sushi in the Denver metro area. It is rated No. 4 on 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area” and No. 7 in Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants.” One of Marjorie’s absolute favorites. Their reservation policy varies, so you may experience a wait.

• **TABLE 6**
  - **Cuisine:** American Bistro
  - **Attire:** Snappy
  - **Address:** 609 Corona St
  - **Proximity to DU:** 4.1 miles (Nearby!)
  - **Website:** www.table6denver.com
  - **Note:** A “classic American Bistro” with one of the best wine menus in Denver, Table 6 was one of *Esquire Magazine*’s “Best New Restaurants in the Nation” in 2004. It is now one of *5280 Magazine*’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area,” *Westword*’s “Best American Restaurant” of Denver and was featured on Food Network’s “The Best Thing I Ever Ate.” The haute comfort food menu changes daily. One of Chris’s absolute favorites. Reservations recommended.
• TAMAYO
  o **Cuisine:** Mexican
  o **Attire:** Casual
  o **Address:** 1400 Larimer St
  o **Proximity to DU:** 7.3 miles
  o **Website:** www.richardsandoval.com/tamayo/index.php
  o **Note:** A modern take on Mexican cuisine, Tamayo is a self-proclaimed “benchmark against which fine Mexican food is measured.” Also, their upstairs outdoor patio is one of the finest in the city.

• Z CUISINE BISTROT
  o **Cuisine:** French
  o **Attire:** Snappy
  o **Address:** 2239 W 30th Ave
  o **Proximity to DU:** 7.7 miles
  o **Website:** www.zcuisineonline.com
  o **Note:** A “genuine French Parisian Bistrot,” Z is the fourth highest-rated Denver restaurant on Yelp.com, has been Zagat-rated three times in their “Top America’s & World’s Restaurants” guide, and is one of 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area.” It has been proclaimed as having the best wine menu in Denver, and the adjacent sister shop is an authentic French absinthe bar. Reservations recommended.

• ZAIDY’S DELI
  o **Cuisine:** NYC-style Deli
  o **Attire:** Casual
  o **Address:** 121 Adams St
  o **Proximity to DU:** 3.4 miles (Nearby!)
  o **Website:** www.zaidysdeli.com
  o **Note:** Traditional New York City style deli with generous portions. Leftovers are common.
University of Denver Neighborhood Locations

- Anthony’s Pizza and Pasta
  - Cuisine: Pizza
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 1628 E Evans Ave
  - Website: www.anthonyspizzaandpasta.com

- Boone’s Tavern
  - Cuisine: American Sports Bar
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 1135 E Evans Ave
  - Website: www.pourkids.com

- Bruegger’s Fresh Bagels Bakery
  - Cuisine: Bagels
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 2000 S University Blvd
  - Website: www.brueggerscolorado.com

- Chipotle
  - Cuisine: Mexican
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 1644 E Evans Ave
  - Website: www.chipotle.com
  - Note: This location was the first ever Chipotle

- Crimson and Gold Tavern
  - Cuisine: American Sports Bar
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 2017 S University Blvd
  - Website: www.candgtavern.com

- Deli Zone
  - Cuisine: Sandwiches
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 2439 S University Blvd
  - Website: www.delizone.net

- Einstein Bros. Bagels
  - Cuisine: Bagels
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 1213 E Evans Ave
  - Website: www.einsteinbros.com
- Illegal Pete's
  - Cuisine: Mexican
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 1744 E Evans Ave
  - Website: www.illegalpetes.com

- Jason’s Thai
  - Cuisine: Thai
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 2022 S University Blvd
  - Website: www.jasonsthai.com

- Jelly Cafe
  - Cuisine: American Breakfast & Brunch
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 1700 E Evans Ave.
  - Website: www.eatmorejelly.com

- Jerusalem
  - Cuisine: Middle Eastern
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 1890 E Evans Ave
  - Website: www.jerusalemrestaurant.com

- John Holly’s Asian Bistro
  - Cuisine: East/Southeast Asian Fusion, Sushi Bar
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 2422 S Downing St
  - Website: www.ufeedme.com/johnholly/locations/denver.htm

- Kaladi Brothers Coffee
  - Cuisine: Coffee
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 1730 E Evans Ave
  - Website: www.kaladicoffee.com

- Mustard’s Last Stand
  - Cuisine: Chicago Style Hot Dogs
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 2081 S University Blvd

- Nova Yogurt
  - Cuisine: Frozen Yogurt
  - Attire: Casual
  - Address: 2058 S University Blvd
  - Website: www.novayogurt.com
• Noodles & Co  
  o Cuisine: East/Southeast Asian Fusion  
  o Attire: Casual  
  o Address: 1737 E Evans Ave  
  o Website: www.noodles.com  
  o Note: Original to Denver, now a national chain

• Pete’s University Park Café  
  o Cuisine: American (Diner)  
  o Attire: Casual  
  o Address: 2345 E Evans Ave  
  o Website: www.petesrestaurants.com/PetesUniversityParkCafe.html

• Pho Saigon Star  
  o Cuisine: Vietnamese & Thai  
  o Attire: Casual  
  o Address: 2045 S University Blvd.  
  o Website: www.phosaigonstarone.com

• Qdoba Mexican Grill  
  o Cuisine: Mexican  
  o Attire: Casual  
  o Address: 2100 S. University Blvd.  
  o Website: www.qdoba.com

• The Pioneer  
  o Cuisine: American Sports Bar  
  o Attire: Casual  
  o Address: 2401 S University Blvd  
  o Website: www.thepioneerbar.com

• Renegade Publik House  
  o Cuisine: Craft Beer & Grilled Flatbread  
  o Attire: Casual  
  o Address: 2043 S University Blvd.  
  o Website: www.renegadepublikhouse.com

• South Philly Cheesesteaks  
  o Cuisine: Philadelphia Style Cheesesteaks  
  o Attire: Casual  
  o Address: 2070 S University Blvd  
  o Website: www.yosouthphillycheesesteaks.com
• Snarf’s
  o Cuisine: Sandwiches
  o Attire: Casual
  o Address: 1729 E. Evans Ave.
  o Website: www.eatsnarfs.com

• Spanky’s Roadhouse
  o Cuisine: American (Traditional)
  o Attire: Casual
  o Address: 1800 E Evans Ave

• Starbucks
  o Cuisine: Coffee
  o Attire: Casual
  o Address 1: 2000 S University Blvd
  o Address 2: 1605 E Evans Ave
  o Website: www.starbucks.com

• Wasabi Roll & Go
  o Cuisine: Japanese
  o Attire: Casual
  o Address: 2076 S. University Blvd.
  o Website: www.wasabirollandgo.com