



Chicago, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Kyoto, London, Lyon, Marrakech, New York City, Paris, Rome, San Francisco, Tokyo... known as traditional foodie hotspots, these cities host some of the most internationally acclaimed eating establishments in the world. While Denver does not (yet) boast a Michelin star, its ever-expanding dining scene and always-insatiable appetite for new and unique is finally bringing it prominence in the restaurant world.

To be sure, the Denver metro area's culinary scene is newer to the map, as many of its most exciting restaurants have opened in more recent years. However, **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 to 19th Avenue with the dessert-themed *D Bar* (not-to-miss: the famous "Cake & Shake" combo). And old-world cuisine never tasted so fresh with both *Bistro Vendome* and *Rioja*.

Root Down, *Sushi Den*, *Potager*, 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 *Steuben's* are changing people's perspectives on stereotypical cuisines.

Brunch is a major part of any Denverite's weekend, and both *Snooze* and *Denver Biscuit Company* lead the pack in Sunday morning wait times.

Classic Denver staples such as *The Buckhorn Exchange*, *Cherry Cricket*, *Elway's*, *Barolo Grill*, and *Zaidy's* remain beloved, but new places to frequent have emerged as well, with multiple eateries available in food hall-like settings within *Union Station*, *Avanti Food & Beverage*, and *The Source*.

Many ethnic cuisines have also become local favorites, with *Tacos Tequila Whiskey* and *El Taco De Mexico* leading the way with their extremely popular street tacos.

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

Truly special, truly innovative restaurants continue to open their doors every week (the number of new ice cream establishments alone is mind-blowing!). There are plenty of wonderful options to appease any hardcore foodie's palate. Personally... we doubt that Michelin star remains elusive for much longer. We hope you enjoy Denver's culinary offerings as much as we do.

"Prepared by Christopher Trengove and updated by Stephanie Tengelsen"

- **Avanti Food & Beverage**

- **Cuisine:** “Food hall” – 7 different concepts
- **Attire:** Casual, with ‘snappy’ Friday and Saturday nights
- **Address:** 3200 Pecos St
- **Proximity to DU:** 8 miles
- **Website:** www.avantifandb.com

Mirroring the very popular food halls of Europe, Avanti houses an eclectic mix of chef-inspired cuisine in a refurbished, modern and airy two-story space. Pizza and arepas, sushi and Mediterranean, classic cocktails and craft beer... there’s something for everyone at this “perfect for indecisive groups” locale. You won’t find a better view of downtown Denver (ideal for pre-gaming if you’re heading to see the Rockies or Broncos). No reservations necessary.

- **Biker Jim’s**

- **Cuisine:** Hot Dogs
- **Attire:** Casual (street clothes)
- **Address:** 2148 Larimer St (with a second location inside Coors Field)
- **Proximity to DU:** 7.5 miles
- **Website:** www.bikerjimdogs.com

Jim’s offers a very unique spin on hot dogs. Options include Alaskan Reindeer, Elk Jalapeno Cheddar, Duck Cilantro, Rattlesnake and Pheasant. 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

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

The oldest restaurant and liquor license in Denver, this 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

A Denver landmark since 1950. The Cricket serves hamburgers with a variety of unique toppings. It has appeared on Food Network's *"The Best Thing I Ever Ate"* and *"Man V Food."* Expect a wait.

- **D Bar Denver**

- **Cuisine:** American with an emphasis on desserts
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 1475 E 17th Ave
- **Proximity to DU:** 6 miles
- **Website:** www.dbardenver.com

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. Reservations recommended; sit at the dessert bar if possible.

- **Denver Biscuit Company**

- **Cuisine:** Biscuits/brunch (pizza during later hours)
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 3237 E Colfax Ave; several locations including a food truck
- **Proximity to DU:** 5 miles
- **Website:** <http://www.denbisco.com>

Made famous by *Diners, Drive-In and Dives*, not to mention their oh-so-popular Biscuit Bus, DBC has become the place to be on Sunday mornings. If you're into chicken-biscuit sandwiches, a delicious strawberry shortcake, giant cinnamon rolls, and hand-tossed pizza (the eatery turns into Fat Sully's, a bar and pizza joint, in the afternoon/evening), this is your spot. Reservations not accepted, and generally busy.

- **Elway's**

- **Cuisine:** Steakhouse
- **Attire:** Dressy (more formal than not)
- **Address:** 2500 E 1st Ave; three additional locations, including an outpost in Denver Airport
- **Proximity to DU:** 2.9 miles (nearby!)
- **Website:** www.elways.com

The traditional steakhouse is a staple of Colorado, much like the Legend himself. Voted *Westword's* "Best French Fries" in Denver (but the onion rings are where it's at). Reservations recommended, with a lively bar scene.

- **Euclid Hall**

- **Cuisine:** German-American
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 1317 14th St
- **Proximity to DU:** 6.7 miles
- **Website:** www.euclidhall.com

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 in Boulder
- **Proximity to DU:** 34.3 miles
- **Website:** www.frascafoodandwine.com

Rated No. 1 by *5280 Magazine's* "25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area" and No. 2 by 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 wine menu is outstanding, and 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

Fruition rivals Frasca as one of the two best restaurants in the state. It was rated No. 1 in Zagat's "10 Best Colorado Restaurants," No. 2 in *5280 Magazine's* "25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area," and was voted *Westword's* "Best New American Restaurant" in Denver. Chef Alex Seidel's sophisticated comfort food is truly exquisite. Reservations recommended.

- **Linger**

- **Cuisine:** Upscale street food
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 2030 W 30th Ave
- **Proximity to DU:** 7.5 miles
- **Website:** www.lingerdenver.com

Linger opened in June 2011 and 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. Reservations recommended.

- **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

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/pastries, sandwiches/sides, and desserts
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 1445 Larimer St
- **Proximity to DU:** 7.3 miles
- **Website:** www.themarketatlarimer.com

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 downtowners passby.

- **Mizuna**

- **Cuisine:** American (new)
- **Attire:** Dressy
- **Address:** 225 E 7th Ave
- **Proximity to DU:** 4.3 miles
- **Website:** www.mizunadenver.com

Award-winning Chef Frank Bonnano's crowning achievement (for now), Mizuna was 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*."

- **Osteria Marco**

- **Cuisine:** Italian
- **Attire:** Casual/'snappy-lite'
- **Address:** 1453 Larimer St
- **Proximity to DU:** 7.3 miles
- **Website:** www.osteriamarco.com

One of "Denver's most popular and critically acclaimed restaurants" argues time.com. It was also featured in *Westword's* "Best Gourmet Pizza" (don't miss the chile-spiced Marcona almonds as well as their happy hour specials).

- **Park Burger**

- **Cuisine:** Burgers and shakes
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 1890 S Pearl St (several locations)
- **Proximity to DU:** 1.4 miles (nearby!)
- **Website:** www.parkburger.com

The best burger in Denver... period. Get the popular truffle or sweet potato fries along with one of their many specialty shakes, and you'll leave stuffed and happy. Optional but recommended: upload your burger photos to social media to inspire envy.

- **Pho 95**

- **Cuisine:** Vietnamese
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 1002 S Federal Blvd
- **Proximity to DU:** 4.9 miles
- **Website:** www.pho95noodlehouse.com

Pho 95 has one of the most ardent followings of *pho-natics* in Denver. 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

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 was 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

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 (it may be "hidden", but it's still very popular).

- **Snooze**

- **Cuisine:** Breakfast and brunch
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** Several locations in the Denver metro area
- **Proximity to DU:** Various
- **Website:** www.snoozeeatery.com

Founded by DU alums, Snooze is arguably the most popular brunch spot in Denver. Everything here is phenomenal, but make absolutely sure you order the pancake of the day... y'know, 'for the table.' It has such a large following that 90-minute waits are not uncommon. They do not take reservations, so we recommend you arrive early (as in, as soon as they open!) to avoid the crowd.

- **The Source**

- **Cuisine:** Artisan food market/several restaurants
- **Attire:** Casual to snappy (depends on why you're visiting!)
- **Address:** 3350 Brighton Blvd
- **Proximity to DU:** 7.5 miles
- **Website:** www.thesourcedenver.com

Whether you're in the mood for a freshly baked chocolate croissant from Babettes, or a chef-prepared meal straight from an oak-fired oven, The Source is considered one of the hippest places in town. At the heart of this renovated warehouse is Acorn, Steve Redzikowski's New American restaurant which has won accolades too numerous to name. Have a cocktail at the Yacht Club, the central, open-air bar before your reservation time (and yes, reservations are recommended).

- **Steuben's**

- **Cuisine:** American (regional classics)
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 523 E 17th Ave
- **Proximity to DU:** 6 miles
- **Website:** www.steubens.com

Chicken pot pie, fish & chips, a classic French dip, boozy milkshakes... this is Americana recreated for the 21st century. You'll want to bring your appetite (no small portions here), and definitely indulge in one of their signature craft cocktails from their extensive and impressive list. Reservations not required, wait times can vary.

- **Sushi Den**

- **Cuisine:** Japanese, sushi bar
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 1487 S Pearl St
- **Proximity to DU:** 2 miles (nearby!)
- **Website:** www.sushiden.net

We'll say "arguably" to be nice, but it's more fact than opinion... this is where you'll find the best sushi in the Denver metro area. It was rated No. 4 on *5280 Magazine's* "25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area" and No. 7 in Zagat's "10 Best Colorado Restaurants." 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
- **Website:** www.table6denver.com

A “classic American Bistro” with one of the best wine menus in Denver, Table 6 was named one of *Esquire Magazine’s* “Best New Restaurants in the Nation”, *5280 Magazine’s* “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area,” and *Westword’s* “Best American Restaurant” in Denver, and was featured on Food Network’s “*The Best Thing I Ever Ate.*”

• **Tacos Tequila Whiskey**

- **Cuisine:** Modern street tacos
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 1514 York St/Highlands neighborhood location as well
- **Proximity to DU:** 4.8 miles
- **Website:** www.tacostequilawhiskey.com

Where to begin? If quiet is your thing, this isn’t your place. If high-end, small bites are preferred, go somewhere else. If you’re looking for ridiculously good street tacos with a modern twist (think pork belly and agave-dipped fried chicken), queso and guacamole with just-made chips, a cocktail program to rival any in the city, and a fun scene to boot, make a beeline for TTW. Reservations aren’t accepted, and be prepared to sip a margarita on the patio while you wait (because you will be waiting).

• **Tamayo**

- **Cuisine:** Mexican
- **Attire:** Snappy
- **Address:** 1400 Larimer St
- **Proximity to DU:** 7.3 miles
- **Website:** www.richardsandoval.com/tamayo

A modern take on Mexican cuisine, Tamayo is a self-proclaimed “benchmark against which fine Mexican food is measured.” Their non-traditional, delicious guacamoles and upstairs outdoor patio make for an excellent night in downtown Denver. Reservations recommended, but not required.

• **Union Station**

- **Cuisine:** Refurbished train station with many different eatery options
- **Attire:** Casual to snappy
- **Address:** 1701 Wynkoop St
- **Proximity to DU:** 7 miles
- **Website:** www.unionstationindenver.com

You don’t often get to visit a historic landmark, much less an exquisitely beautiful and *fun* historic landmark. If you’re going to be in downtown, do yourself a favor and at least walk around this gorgeous space. Plenty of options for eating and drinking (Mercantile is a favorite dining spot), and if you have time, see if you can get a spot at the bar at the well-hidden Cooper Lounge on the top floor.

- **Work & Class**

- **Cuisine:** American/Latin fusion
- **Attire:** Casual/fun
- **Address:** 2500 Larimer St
- **Proximity to DU:** 6.6 miles
- **Website:** www.workandclassdenver.com

There is an actual list of rules for eating here, but don't be scared off... this place is as light and lovely in spirit as it is serious about its food. No fuss, no frills, just really quality dishes which come in several sizes for individual tasting or sharing with a group. The roasted goat and coriander lamb are two favorites, but don't leave without ordering the butterscotch pudding... oooh, the butterscotch pudding. Reservations aren't taken here, so head over on the early side.

- **Zaidy's Deli**

- **Cuisine:** NYC-style Deli
- **Attire:** Casual
- **Address:** 121 Adams St
- **Proximity to DU:** 3.4 miles (nearby!)
- **Website:** www.zaidysdeli.com

Traditional New York City style deli with generous portions (leftovers are common). An excellent choice for a casual sit-down breakfast or lunch. No reservations necessary.

University of Denver Neighborhood Locations

- Anthony's Pizza and Pasta
 - **Cuisine:** Pizza
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 1628 E Evans Ave
 - **Website:** www.anthonypizzaandpasta.com
- Asbury Provisions
 - **Cuisine:** Small plates/sandwiches/cocktails
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2043 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.asburyprovisions.com
- Atticus
 - **Cuisine:** Eclectic American
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 1135 E Evans Ave
 - **Website:** www.atticusdenver.com
- Ben and Jerry's
 - **Cuisine:** Ice cream
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2339 E Evans Ave
 - **Website:** <http://www.benjerry.com/uofdenver>
- Bruegger's Bagels
 - **Cuisine:** Bagels
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2000 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.brueggers.com
- Chipotle
 - **Cuisine:** Mexican
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 1644 E Evans Ave
 - **Website:** www.chipotle.com
 - ***Note:** This location is the *original* Chipotle...!
- Crimson and Gold Tavern
 - **Cuisine:** American sports bar
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2017 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** <http://www.candgdenver.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
- Ginza Sushi & Grill
 - **Cuisine:** Japanese
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2104 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.ginzadenver.com/menu.php?key=sushi&cat=sushiala
- 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
- Jimmy John's
 - **Cuisine:** Sandwiches
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2075 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.jimmyjohns.com
- 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
 - **Website:** www.mustardslaststandcolorado.com

- Nova Yogurt
 - **Cuisine:** Frozen yogurt
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2058 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.novayogurt.com
- Pete's University Park Café
 - **Cuisine:** American (diner)
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2345 E Evans Ave
 - **Website:** www.petesrestaurants.com/PetesUniversityParkCafe.html
- Pho Saigon Star
 - **Cuisine:** Vietnamese & Thai
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2045 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.phosaigonstarone.com
- The Pioneer
 - **Cuisine:** American Sports Bar
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2401 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.thepioneerbar.com
- Qdoba Mexican Grill
 - **Cuisine:** Mexican
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2100 S. University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.qdoba.com
- Redford's Tavern
 - **Cuisine:** Hot sandwiches/Philadelphia-style cheesesteaks
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2070 S University Blvd
 - **Website:** www.redfordstavern.com
- Snarf's
 - **Cuisine:** Sandwiches
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 1729 E. Evans Ave
 - **Website:** www.eatsnarfs.com
- Spanky's Urban Roadhouse
 - **Cuisine:** American (Traditional)
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 1800 E Evans Ave
 - **Website:** www.spankysur.com
- Starbucks
 - **Cuisine:** Coffee
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address 1:** 2000 S University Blvd
 - **Address 2:** 1605 E Evans Ave
 - **Website:** www.starbucks.com

- Subway
 - **Cuisine:** Sandwiches
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 201 University Blvd #108
 - **Website:** www.subway.com
- Tokyo Bowl
 - **Cuisine:** Japanese
 - **Attire:** Casual
 - **Address:** 2337 E Evans Ave
 - **Website:** www.tokyobowlevans.com