



The ABCs of MKE Dining

Take an alphabetic tour around Milwaukee's culinary scene.

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Milwaukee's dining scene is as vibrant as ever. We took a look around the area for an A to Z guide on what's cooking. With literally thousands of establishments, menu items, chefs and drinks, we narrowed this list down to a handful of some of the most prominent.

A **Apple Pie in a Bag:** This classic from Elegant Farmer is worth the trip to Mukwonago in the fall. Top the experience off with a hayride and apple picking.
Adriatic Fresh Seafood and Steak: A Mediterranean-style open kitchen offers seafood and steak offerings in the Mayfair collection.

The Bartolotta Restaurants: The aggregation of Bartolotta restaurants has served Milwaukee for almost 30 years, including well-known favorites like Bacchus, Harbor House, Lake Park Bistro, and Ristorante Bartolotta.

The Dans: In 2016, Dan Van Rite and Dan Jacobs opened DanDan, bringing Chinese-inspired offerings to Milwaukee's Third Ward. EsterEv, a fine dining restaurant located within DanDan, hosted top chefs from across the country this year, participating in a collaborative cooking series.

The Diplomat: In June, The Diplomat chef and co-owner Dane Baldwin was named the 2022 James Beard Award winner for Best Chef-Midwest; the business on Brady features American food in small-plate format.

El Rey: This family-owned Hispanic grocery store offers access to authentic products and is one of the largest Hispanic-owned corporations in Wisconsin.

C **Collectivo:** The local specialty coffee roaster has 12 locations throughout the Milwaukee area that offer creative and basic coffee drinks, baked goods, and a cafe menu.
Classy Girl Cupcakes: From traditional favorites like carrot cake and red velvet to creative flavors like bananas foster and peanut butter cup, Classy Girl treats add a sweet touch to any special event.

Frankie's: Catch favorites from Frankie's American-Caribbean-African cuisine as its food truck travels around Milwaukee, order food online, cater an event, or host your event at its new restaurant event space downtown.

G **Grassway Organics:** The East Troy organic dairy farm focuses on grazing and pasture-raising animals. It hosts an on-farm store as well as the seasonal "Pizza on the Farm" event, offering wood-fired pizzas made from meat and cheese produced from the farm, locally-crafted beer (and other locally-crafted drinks), and live music.

The Hale House: The Hale House offers locally-sourced, house-made bar and grill favorites from cheese curds to the classic Friday fish fry (offered on Wednesdays, too). Its wide selection of craft beers also includes many options brewed in Wisconsin.

Harbor House: Lakeside dining with fresh seafood options draws many Milwaukeeans to enjoy a quiet dinner out or attend a special event in the private dining room.

I **Indo Beef Curry:** The shredded coconut-curry beef is one of many creative offerings at Cafe Hollander, a European-inspired grand cafe with locations in downtown Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, Mequon and Brookfield.



Justin Aprahaimian: The 2014 James Beard Foundation recipient of the Best Chef Midwest Award is the chef and owner of Sanford, a Milwaukee upscale fine dining establishment. After working his way up from kitchen staff to sous chef, Aprahaimian and his wife eventually took over for Sanford's original owners in 2012.



K **Kismet:** This original cocktail from the classic Bryant's Cocktail Lounge dates back to the 1940s. But you won't see it on a menu — you'll need to order it by name or rely on Bryant's experienced mixologists to make you exactly what you're in the mood for.

L **Loop Station:** One of Eagle Park Brewing's staples, the Loop Station is "refreshingly addicting," with hints of agave nectar, lime peel and sea salt. It's one of the many craft brews you can enjoy at its Milwaukee or Muskego location. You can even take some beers to go.

N **Ninja Pig:** A crispy pork taco with hoisin sauce is one of the BeAir Cantina's \$2 taco offerings, available Tuesdays and Thursdays. Complete it with a Spicy Pollo taco, a Zhuatanajo Shrimp taco, and a mango BeAir Margarita.



Q **Quick Release:** This malt-driven Vienna amber lager is one of Raised Grain Brewing Company's year-round offerings. Enjoy these local brews in the Waukesha-based taproom or at its pop-up beer garden that tours Waukesha County parks throughout the summer.

R **Ray's Butcher Shop:** This 45-year-old butcher shop offers a broad selection of hand-cut meats such as steaks, filets, tenderloins, briskets and ribs. In addition to its beef, pork, poultry and seafood options, it has some of the most savory beef jerky you'll find (try the peppered or sweet and spicy).

Ray's Wine & Spirits: Ray's is much more than a liquor store. Ray's supplements its extensive selection of wines, beers, and spirits with tasting events and a Growler Gallery with draft pours, wines, whiskeys, and slushies.

S **Saz's:** Those battered cheese curds and sour cream and chive fries taste just as good whether they're from Saz's State House Restaurant, a booth at a summer festival or a catered event.

M **Milwaukee Farmers United:** This online farmers market gives members access to a variety of Wisconsin-based farmers and craftsmen, delivering a customized collection of local goods twice per week.

O **Oro di Oliva:** With locations in the Milwaukee Public Market and in Brookfield, Oro di Oliva has more than 70 varieties of olive oil and balsamic vinegar. If you're not sure what you're looking for, in-store tasting is offered to find the taste you like.

P **Pizza Man:** After the original Milwaukee favorite burned down in 2010, Pizza Man was resurrected with locations downtown and at the Mayfair Collection in Wauwatosa, recreating the flavor and the vibe of the original.

Purple Door Ice Cream: Purple Door Ice Cream was founded by two educators, starting as a wholesaler and expanding to their Walker's Point location and beyond. Their 200+ unique flavors can be found at scoop shop locations, local grocery stores, and in many local restaurants, bars, and eateries.

T **Twisted Path Distillery:** The Bay View distillery opened by self-taught distiller Brian Sammons creates gluten-free, certified organic vodka, rum, gin and whiskey. Stop into the distillery for a tasting Wednesday through Saturday or take a distiller-led tour on Saturdays.

U **Unagi:** Thai namito on Brady Street (and in Wauwatosa) has a wide range of fresh nigiri/sashimi including fresh water eel. For a larger helping, order the Unagi Don entre complete with unagi sauce, avocado, and a side of miso soup.



V **Vino Cappuccino:** A quaint Italian restaurant in the heart of Brookfield features Italian classics in a charming setting, complete with live music. If you're just looking for takeout, they offer two-for-one pizzas on carryout orders every night. Pick up a traditional pepperoni or switch things up with a buffalo chicken or artichoke and arugula pizza.

W **Whiskey Walnut Pecan Pie:** After a meal at HoneyPie, pop into the sister cafe, Palomino, and visit the HoneyPie Bakery for a slice of whiskey walnut pecan pie. This twist on a southern classic is one of the specialty pies you can grab a slice of (or order ahead to take home a whole pie).

X **X-Golf:** Set to open at American Family Field late into the 2022 season is X-Golf, a virtual interactive golf experience. Situated amidst two full bars and seating with views of the field, X-Golf will be open year round and on game days.

Y **Yellowtail:** At Screaming Tuna, you'll enjoy riverfront views and an eclectic sushi selection, including the Spicy Yellowtail maki. If you're looking to break out of a roll, try the Yellowtail Amarillo appetizer.



Z **Zocalo Food Park:** Milwaukee's Food Truck Park located in Walker's Point hosts food trucks with diverse cuisines from Modern Maki to Brew'd Burger to Anytime Arepas. Wash down the meal with a drink from the garage-style Tavern inspired by Frida Kahlo's famous blue house. **MKE**