

Insider's Guide to

PHOENIX

The city of Phoenix—cultural center of the Valley of the Sun and well known for its “dry” heat. Incorporated as a city in 1881 when a few chuck wagons could still be found, today, food has taken a more permanent role. Phoenix has plenty to offer in terms of great restaurants—none of which are on wheels anymore. So, where does one begin? That’s where the *Sonnhalter Insider’s Guide to Phoenix* comes in. It’s our way of helping you find the city’s best restaurants, nightlife, the sights and of course, places to cool off.

We asked some of our Phoenix friends for their recommendations on the best places to sample some of the local cuisine—and not just the rattlesnake steak. We wanted those secret locales that only the locals know about. Because at Sonnhalter, we not only like to get our hands dirty...we like to get them greasy!

When you’re not convening at the convention center, make sure you have a little fun in the Valley of the Sun.

Downtown/Central Phoenix

The Arrogant Butcher

Bars, American (Traditional)
(602) 324-8502
www.foxrc.com/restaurants/the-arrogant-butcher

Buzzy restaurant turning out upscale New American comfort food in a stylish setting.

Blue Hound

New American
(602) 495-1111
www.bluehoundkitchen.com

A seasonal menu meets hand-crafted cocktails, all in a sleek, neighborhood joint atmosphere. Includes shareable plates and private dining options.

Café at Phoenix Public Market

Café
(602) 253-2700
www.phxpublicmarket.com/cafe

Incorporating produce and other ingredients from the adjacent Public Market, this casual urban hangout is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Carly's Bistro

Bistro
(602) 262-2759
www.carlysbistro.com

Local art, a popular brunch, well-made food and a killer happy hour all make Carly's a downtown mainstay.

Desoto Central Market

Grocery, Specialty Food, Delis
(602) 680-7747
www.desotocentralmarket.com

Hipster hangout offering eateries, a bar and a farmer's market all in a vintage warehouse space.

Durant's

Steakhouse
(602) 264-5967
www.durantsaz.com

This downtown institution, going strong since the 50s, is famous for its steaks and martinis. As the founder Jack Durant says: “Good friends, great steaks and the best booze, are the necessities of life!”

Harumi Sushi

Japanese, Sushi Bars
(602) 258-0131
www.harumisushiaz.com/

Vibrant sushi house with a casual ambiance, plus grab-&-go meals and bento boxes at lunch.

Lo-Lo's Chicken & Waffles

Southern, Soul Food
(602) 340-1304
www.loloschickenandwaffles.com/

Down-home restaurant fixing up fried chicken and soul food accompanied by hearty sides.

Matt's Big Breakfast

Breakfast & Brunch
(602) 254-1074
www.mattsbigbreakfast.com

This place gets busy so expect a wait, but don't leave, it's the best breakfast downtown.

Noble Eatery

Cafes, Bakeries
(602) 688-2424
www.noblebread.com

Even before it served its first cannellini bean and crab open-face sandwich, this tiny, lunch-only destination for Italian-inspired soups, salads and wood-fired sandwiches in central Phoenix had food lovers buzzing. Namely because of the dynamic duo behind it: baker Jason Raducha of Noble Bread, whose creations have appeared in some of the best restaurants in town, and venerated Phoenix chef Claudio Urciuoli, formerly of Noca.

Pizzeria Bianco

Pizza, Italian, Sandwiches
(602) 258-8300
www.pizzeriabianco.com

Huge crowds congregate at chef-owner Chris Bianco's legendary Downtown pizzeria for unforgettable pies that are full of smoky flavor and crafted with attention to detail.

Pomo Pizzeria Napoletana

Pizza, Italian, Sandwiches
(602) 795-2555
www.pomopizzeria.com

Pizzeria providing Neapolitan pies, plus Italian fare from antipasti to gourmet paninis.

Downtown/Central Phoenix (continued)

St Francis

New American
(602) 200-8111
www.stfrancisaz.com

The custom wood-burning oven is the center piece at St Francis...nearly every dish has a component that comes out of this oven, including the San Francisco-style sourdough bread.

Welcome Chicken and Donuts

Donuts, Coffee & Tea, Chicken Shop
(602) 258-1655
www.welcomechickenanddonuts.com

Chef Michael Babcock's at it again, this time with impossibly crisp fried chicken tossed in Asian-inspired sauces and one-of-a-kind doughnuts put together with things like a spiced pear glaze, Pinot Noir salt and even Pop Rocks.

The Wild Thaiger

Thai
(602) 241-8995
www.wildthaiger.com

Family-owned restaurant dishing out Thai standards in a contemporary space with a full bar.

North Central

Barrio Café

Traditional Mexican
(602) 636-0240
www.barriocafe.com

"Save water, drink tequila" is a footnote on the menu. Some of the best Mexican in the Valley.

Binkley's Restaurant

American
(602) 388-4874
www.binkleysrestaurant.com

With a new menu inspired by the best ingredients available and only 24 spots available every day, reservations are a must and go quickly at this culinary adventure led by Beard award-winning chef Kevin Binkley.

Dick's Hideaway

Bars, Mexican, Breakfast & Brunch
(602) 241-1881
www.richardsonsnm.com/dicks-hideaway

Beware, there's no sign to indicate the strip-mall location of this local favorite, but the New Mexico-style Southwestern grub is incredible!

Mora Italian

Italian
(602) 795-9943
www.moraitalian.com

Finesse and bright flavors from Chef Scott Conant's open kitchen set this thriving restaurant apart. Make sure to try the Burrata appetizer, homemade pasta and the roasted white fish Orata.

Rokerij

Fish and Steak
(602) 287-8900
www.richardsonsnm.com/rokerij

Dark and atmospheric...make sure to have a drink at the downstairs bar. The name means "smokehouse" in Dutch and it's the place to come commune with red meat and a Jack Daniels.

Southern Rail

Southern, American (New)
(602) 200-0085
www.southernrailaz.com

A nostalgic gastronomical journey inspired by the "flavors from the American south." Regional influences stretch from the coastal Carolinas of "low-country" cooking through the soulful belt of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

Arcadia/Biltmore

Beckett's Table

American (New)
(602) 954-1700
www.beckettstable.com

Chef-owner Justin Beckett whips up interesting twists on comfort food in new combinations (like chocolate-covered bacon s'mores), served alongside an endless wine list.

Chelsea's Kitchen

American (Traditional)
(602) 957-2555
www.chelseaskitchenaz.com

Bustling, industrial-chic eatery featuring American comfort fare and a patio overlooking the canal.

Delux Burgers

Burgers and sandwiches
(602) 522-2288
www.deluxburger.com

Proprietary blend from Niman Ranch for their burgers and an excellent wine list. Bar and grill open late night.

The Gladly Restaurant

American (New)
(602) 759-8132
www.thegladly.com

Creative, globally inspired New American fare joins a menu of 200+ whiskeys at this stylish bistro.

Glai Baan

Thai
(602) 595-5881
www.glaibaanaz.com/

Classic Thai snacks, refined comfort food and noodle dishes all served in cozy, laid-back surroundings.

Ingo's Tasty Food

American
(602) 795-2884
www.ingotastyfood.com

Always a contender for best burger in the city, this gourmet food stand has an old-school counter as well as picnic garden seating, and a menu full of fresh, quality food.

La Grande Orange

Breakfast and lunch place
(602) 840-7777
www.lagrandeorangegrocery.com/

Great breakfasts...they also have a separate pizzeria (vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options).

The Parlor

Pizza, burgers and sandwiches
(602) 248-2480
www.theparlor.us

Wood-fired pizzas and handmade pasta. They don't take reservations.

Windsor

American (New), Pubs
(602) 279-1111
www.windsoraz.com

Global comfort food and retro cocktails fill the menu at this neighborhood bar and restaurant with a backyard-style patio.

South Phoenix

Little Miss BBQ

Barbeque
(602) 437-1177
www.littlemissbbq.com

This functional eatery with a retro vibe specializes in Central Texas-style BBQ and traditional sides.

Quiessence at the Farm

Fine Dining
(602) 276-0601
www.qatthefarm.com

Located in a repurposed farmhouse, and offering up an intimate atmosphere, this leader of the farm-to-table movement has unparalleled service and food, resulting in a unique dining experience.

Rustler's Rooste

Western Banquet Steakhouse
(602) 431-6474
www.rustlersrooste.com

"Beef and Brew with a View" ...you will get the true Southwest experience, right down to the sawdust on the floor and the live country western music.

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Tempe

Caffe Boa

Italian
(480) 968-9112
www.cafeboa.com

Led by husband and wife duo, Jay and Christine Wisniewski. All pastas are handmade in house and they have a great wine selection (500+ bins and over 50 wines by the glass).

Cornish Pasty Co

British, Pubs
(480) 894-6261
www.cornishpastyco.com

Minimalist bar/eatery, cooking traditional and vegan Cornish pasties, plus other English faves.

Hong Kong Asian Diner

Cantonese
(480) 705-7486

Don't let the strip mall location or lack of a website fool you, this family-owned and operated restaurant is one of the best places in the valley for authentic Cantonese food.

House of Tricks

American (New)
(480) 968-1114
www.houseoftricks.com

Cozy spot serving New American fare in a 1920s bungalow with a patio featuring a fire pit and bar.

Nocawich

Breakfast & Brunch, Sandwiches
(480) 758-5322
www.nocawich.com

Tastemaker Eliot Wexler invades Tempe with the sandwich concept he originally developed for Noca, his now-shuttered James Beard Award-nominated restaurant. Along with upscale hoagies, Wexler's doing breakfast too, bringing in bagels from New York's H&H Midtown Bagels and Nova lox from Russ & Daughters in Manhattan.

North Scottsdale

Guido's Chicago Meats & Deli

Deli, Italian, Pizza
(480) 951-0636
www.guidosofchicago.com

Classic Italian subs and red-sauce dishes served in a casual space set within a gourmet market.

Lamp Pizzeria

Pizza
(480) 292-8773
www.lamppizza.com/

Consistently at the top of the local media's "Best of" lists, both with the critics and customers, this wood-fired pizzeria will not disappoint.

Persian Room

Middle Eastern, Persian/Iranian
(480) 614-1414
www.persianroom.com

Long-running restaurant serving Persian cuisine in a lavish, multilevel dining room.

Proof

American (Traditional), Comfort Food
(480) 513-5085
www.proofcanteen.com

A culinary road trip through the 50 states...morning, noon and night.

The Sicilian Butcher

Italian
(602) 775-5140
www.thesicilianbutcher.com

Craft meatballs and charcuterie dominate the menu at this chef-driven neighborhood restaurant. An innovative approach to traditional Italian.

True Food Kitchen

American (New), Vegetarian, Vegan
(480) 265-4500
www.truefoodkitchen.com

A "farm-to-table" philosophy permeates the creative menu of this "green/eco" cafe known for healthy, fresh eats (fans "love the kale salad") and "modern" interiors that inspire a Zen-like feeling.

Zinburger Wine & Burger Bar

American (New), Burgers
(480) 285-0690
www.zinburgeraz.com

Local chain serving gourmet burgers and shakes, plus wine, beer and cocktails, in a hip, casual space.

Zinc Bistro

French
(480) 603-0922
www.zincbistroaz.com

Cozy French bistro with an oyster bar featuring brassy Parisian-like surrounds with a patio.

Scottsdale

Andreoli Italian Grocer

Italian
(480) 614-1980
www.andreoli-grocer.com

A slice of authentic Italian in the Grand Canyon State, with house-made bread, salami, pasta and more served at wooden tables in the market space.

Fat Ox

Italian
(480) 307-6900
www.ilovefatox.com

Taking regional favorites from different parts of Italy and fusing them with contemporary methods, results in imaginative antipasti, salumi, pasta-roasted meats and more.

Franco's Italian Caffe

Italian
(480) 481-7614
francoscottsdale.com/

Fresh, upscale Florentine Italian dishes like Filet Mignon All'Arrabiata, Bistecca Fiorentina and Spaghetti Salsa Cruda. Be sure and start with one of the restaurant's trademark bruschetta, including a popular tuna bruschetta. The restaurant offers a comprehensive wine list, as well.

Gyros Express

Greek, Mediterranean
(480) 483-0300
www.originalgyrosexpress.com

It is a dive and the service is sketchy, but the same family has owned the joint for more than 25 years and the gyros and hummus are worth it.

Olive & Ivy

American (New), Mediterranean
(480) 751-2200
www.foxrc.com/restaurants/
olive-ivy-restaurant-marketplace

Restaurant and bar serving Californian-Mediterranean fare in stylish, bustling quarters with a patio.

Roaring Fork

Seafood and Steaks
(480) 947-0795
www.roaringfork.com/
Wood-fired cooking (roisserie and oven).

Roka Akor

Sushi, Bars, Steakhouse
(480) 306-8800
www.rokaakor.com/scottsdale

Unparalleled combination of thoughtful design and contemporary Robata Japanese cuisine.

SumoMaya

Mexican-Asian Fusion
(480) 397-9520
www.sumomaya.com

Combining the flavors of Asia with the culinary traditions of Mexico and South America leads to an unexpected and unique culinary experience that is not to be missed.

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Old Town/South Scottsdale

Citizen Public House

Gastropubs, American (New)
(480) 398-4208
www.citizenpublichouse.com

Upscale gastropub turning out creative New American recipes complemented by craft beers and cocktails.

EVO

Italian
(480) 265-9814
www.evoscottsdale.com

Chic brick-walled restaurant fixing up refined Italian cuisine until late at night.

Farm & Craft

Bistro
(480) 568-8980
www.ilovefarmandcraft.com

Seamlessly integrating gluten-free, vegetarian and other healthy options into delicious plates in a stylish atmosphere complete with patio, craft cocktails and impeccable service.

FnB

American
(480) 284-4777
www.fnbrestaurant.com

Their Arizona-only wine program has brought them local and national praise, with a James Beard Award and no less than *Food & Wine Magazine* calling them "the epicenter of creative Arizona cuisine."

Frank and Lupe's

Mexican
(480) 990-9844
www.frankandlupes.com
25+ year-old restaurant...great Mexican food.

Marcellino Ristorante

Italian
(480) 990-9500
www.marcellinoristorante.com
Award-winning Chef Marcellino has the best Italian restaurant in the city... This is the real deal...Italian cuisine that doesn't require a passport or an 11-hour flight.

The Mission

Latin American, Mexican
(480) 636-5005
www.themissionaz.com

Chic, dimly lit restaurant and lounge serving modern, upscale Latin cuisine and craft cocktails.

Virtu Honest Craft

Mediterranean
(480) 946-3477
www.virtuscottsdale.com

Nestled inside the Bespoke Inn, this cozy space has reshaped customer's expectations, fusing Spanish, Italian and other Mediterranean traditions and flavors in unexpected and pleasing ways.



Multiple Locations

Barrio Queen

www.barrioqueen.com
Mexico City soul food.

Coconuts Fish Café

www.coconutsaz.com
A taste of Hawaii in Arizona.

The Jade Palace

www.jadepalacescottsdale.com
Excellent and authentic Chinese food.

The Living Room Wine Café & Lounge

www.livingroomwinebar.com
An innovative wine and food concept.

Long Wong's

Multiple locations and websites
A Phoenix-area institution, with multiple hole-in-the-wall locations offering up some of the best wings you've ever had.

Postino

www.postinowinecafe.com
Wine and small plates in a great atmosphere.

Spinato's Pizzeria

www.spinatospizzeria.com/
Longtime, family-run pizzeria offering classic and creative pies.

The Vig

www.thevig.us
Lawn games, large patios, great food and extended Happy Hours.

Welcome Diner

www.welcomediner.net
A retro diner with southern style comfort food classics.

Nightlife and Bars

Bar Bianco – www.pizzeriabianco.com/bar-bianco

Bar Smith – www.barsmithphoenix.com

The Beverly – www.thebeverly.us

Bikini Lounge – www.facebook.com/theBikiniLounge/

Bitter & Twisted – www.bitterandtwistedaz.com

Bliss ReBAR – www.blissrebar.com

Blue Hound Kitchen & Cocktails – www.bluehoundkitchen.com

Blue Martini – www.phoenix.bluemartinilounge.com

Bull Shooters – www.bullshooters-az.com

CASA Tempe – www.casatempe.com

Coach House – www.coachhousescottsdale.com

Copper Blues – www.copperblueslive.com

Counter Intuitive – www.counterintuitiveaz.com

Crescent Ballroom – www.crescentphx.com

The District – www.districtbaraz.com

The Duce – www.theducephx.com

FilmBar – www.thefilmbarphx.com/

Hanny's – www.hannys.net

Hi Fi Kitchen & Cocktails – www.hifibars.com/

Kazimierz – www.kazbarscottsdale.com/

Last Drop at the Hermosa – www.hermosainn.com/lons/last-drop-bar

Linger Longer Lounge – www.lingerlongeraz.com

The Lost Leaf – www.thelostleaf.org

Maya Day + Nightclub – www.mayaclubaz.com

Merc Bar – www.mercbar.com

Mill Cue Club – www.millcueclub.com

The Nash – www.thenash.org

Rockbar Inc – www.rockbarscottsdale.com

Rhythm Room – www.rhythmroom.com

Seamus McCaffrey's – www.seamusmccaffreys.com

Side Bar – www.sidebarphoenix.com

Taste of Tops – www.topliquors.com

The Whining Pig – www.thewhiningpig.com

Phoenix Sightseeing

Arizona Science Center – www.azscience.org

Castles N' Coasters – www.castlesncoasters.com

Chase Field – <http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com>

Desert Botanical Garden – www.dbg.org

Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin West – www.franklloydwright.org

Flying V Cabin – www.pioneeraz.org/flying-v-cabin-original-building

Heard Museum – www.heard.org

Hot Air Balloon Rides – www.go-arizona.com/Phoenix/Hot-Air-Balloon

Hoover Dam – <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam>

Japanese Friendship Garden – www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org

Martin Auto Museum – www.martinautomuseum.com

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot – www.nps.gov/moca

Musical Instrument Museum – www.mim.org

Mystery Castle – www.mymysterycastle.com

Phoenix Art Museum – www.phxart.org

Phoenix First Friday Trolley Tours – www.artlinkphoenix.com/first-fridays

Phoenix Public Market – www.phxpublicmarket.com/

Phoenix Theatre – www.phoenixtheatre.com

Phoenix Zoo – www.phoenixzoo.org

Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum – www.pioneeraz.org

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art – <https://www.smoca.org>

Sedona – www.visitsedona.com

Tovrea Castle – www.tovreacastletours.com

Western Destinations Canyon Creek Ranch – Tours – www.westerndestinations.com

Transportation

Apache Taxi – (480) 804-1000

AZ Sedans – (480) 559-8615

AZ Elite Transportation – (480) 703-4005

Clean Air Cab – (480) 777-9777

Limoz – (480) 744-5466

Lyft – www.lyft.com

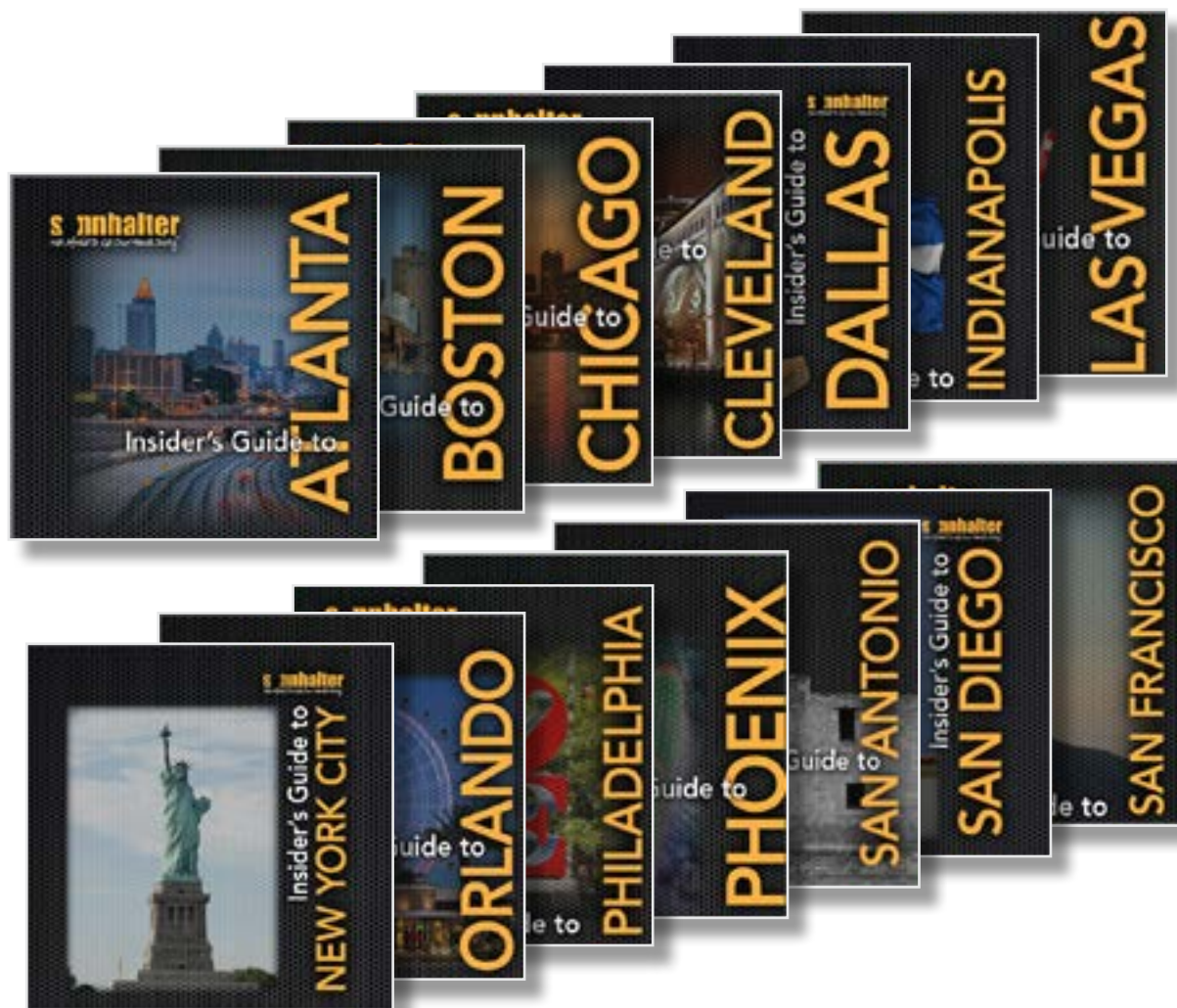
Scottsdale Cab Company – (480) 577-1111

Sunrise Cab – (602) 800-9941

Uber – www.uber.com

FOR INSIDER'S GUIDES TO OTHER CITIES:

sonnhalter.com/insiders-guides



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