

**snnhalter**  
Not Afraid To Get Our Hands Dirty

# Insider's Guide to DALLAS



**Welcome to Big D** — Dallas, Texas! They say everything is bigger in Texas. And that includes the fun. To help you with that, we've put together the Sonnhalter *Insider's Guide to Dallas*. It's our way of cutting through the clutter to let you know about the city's biggest, bestest restaurants, shows and sights.

We asked some of our Dallas pals for their recommendations on where to sample some of the local cuisine — and not just barbecue and Tex-Mex either. ('Cause "Big D" can also stand for "Delicious.") We wanted those secret locales that only the locals know about. After all, at Sonnhalter, we not only like to get our hands dirty...we like to get them nice 'n' greasy too!

When you're not convening at the Convention Center, make sure you get to see the sights in Dallas. And remember, some of the area's attractions are in nearby Arlington and Fort Worth (which are closer than the length of some Texas ranches). Enjoy your stay in the Lone Star state!

## Downtown

### Dakota's

Steakhouse  
(214) 740-4001  
[www.dakotasrestaurant.com](http://www.dakotasrestaurant.com)

The "unique" subterranean setting is the most notable aspect of this Arts District steakhouse furnished in a classic New Orleans style with a garden view and a waterfall; it offers "well-executed," midpriced cuts and "professional" service reminiscent of a "bygone era."

### Samar

Middle Eastern, Indian  
(214) 922-9922  
[www.samarrestaurant.com](http://www.samarrestaurant.com)

Small plates with culinary influences from India, Spain and the Eastern Mediterranean; exotic and delicious flavor profiles; after dinner head to the patio for hookah!

### Stampede 66

American (New)  
(214) 550-6966  
[www.stampede66.com](http://www.stampede66.com)

Awesome Texan décor that's all about Texas and there's plenty of visuals to make you feel like you're experiencing the entire Lone Star State.

### Stephan Pyles

American (New)  
(214) 580-7000  
[www.stephanpyles.com](http://www.stephanpyles.com)

The "master of New Texas cuisine," Stephan Pyles "reigns" at his "classy, modern" Arts District Southwestern where diners can watch chefs create his "constantly evolving" globally influenced fare in the glass-enclosed display kitchen; it's the "perfect place to take out-of-towners" — "particularly if they're paying."

### The French Room

French  
(214) 742-8200  
[www.hoteladolphus.com/dining/the-french-room](http://www.hoteladolphus.com/dining/the-french-room)

"For a splurge night," fans tout this "top-flight" haute French inside the historic Hotel Adolphus, voted Dallas' No. 1 for Decor and Service thanks to its "breathtaking," "ro-coco" interior and "impeccable" hospitality; "creative," "perfectly executed" cuisine and "marvelous wines" round out a "superior dining experience" that's "memorable in every way"; P.S. jackets required.



## Design District

### FT33

American (New)  
(214) 741-2629  
[www.ft33dallas.com](http://www.ft33dallas.com)

Season inspired modern cuisine — "This is more than food. It's a creation that begins at the market where farmers and artisans we know and trust provide us with the choicest seasonal ingredients that continually inspire and evolve our menu."

### Oak

American (New)  
(214) 712-9700  
[www.oakdallas.com](http://www.oakdallas.com)

Reservations are a hot ticket at this Design District stunner in Market Center featuring a seasonal Eclectic menu from Jason Maddy (ex The Mansion) in posh neutral-toned digs and equally polished service.

### Off-Site Kitchen

Burgers, Sandwiches  
(214) 741-2226  
[www.offsitekitchen.net](http://www.offsitekitchen.net)

Best "off-the-beaten-path" sandwiches and burgers in Dallas. Great lunch spot where chef-owner Nick Badovinus has the take on "what line cooks eat."

### Royal Sixty

Lunch Spot  
(214) 741-2604  
[www.royalsixty.com](http://www.royalsixty.com)

Serving a French Colonial-inspired menu ranging from Crepes to Vietnamese Salad to Chocolate Pot du Creme. If the French flag has flown over a nation, that nation's food may be presented here. Live piano music from 12–2.

## Uptown

### Grimaldi's

Pizza  
(214) 559-4611  
www.grimaldispizzeria.com/texas/dallas-tx  
"Fantastic" coal-fired pies "hot out of the oven" are the draw at these Texas spin-offs of the venerable New York City pizzeria that "compare favorably to the original"; with "kitschy" settings trimmed in old photos and memorabilia, it's just like "Brooklyn" only with shorter lines and "nicer" service.

### Komali

Mexican  
(214) 252-0200  
www.komalirestaurant.com  
Chef and Owner Abraham Salum offers a fresh new look into the cuisine of his native Mexico with Komali. The restaurant takes its name from the native Aztec word for an open fire griddle used by the people of Mexico to prepare tortillas and toast cacao beans for coffee.

### Nick & Sam's

Steakhouse  
(214) 871-7444  
www.nick-sams.com  
Imagine, a "New York steakhouse in the middle of Texas" exclaim fans of this Uptown meatery, the "place to be seen" over "excellent" prime beef and seafood in "dark," "attractive" digs highlighted by a grand piano player in the kitchen; whether you're seated in the "gorgeous" dining room or "less formal, action-packed bar," you'll find "eye candy," "top-notch" service and "Texas-size" tabs.

### Nobu

Japanese, Sushi  
(214) 252-7000  
www.noburestaurants.com/dallas  
"Far beyond typical sushi or Japanese," Nobu Matsuhisa's "phenomenal" fusion of Japanese and Peruvian cuisine is showcased at this Dallas outpost of his "deservedly famous" chain, located within the Hotel Crescent complex Uptown; "superb" service and a "fantastic," serene ambiance help ease some of the "sticker shock when the bill arrives."

### Private/Social

American (New)  
(214) 754-4744  
www.privatesocial.com  
Two-time Top Chef—testant Tiffany Derry is at the helm of this Uptown arrival proffering two moderately priced Eclectic menus: 'private,' comprising large plates for one, and 'social,' filled with tapas meant for grazing and sharing; the venue's already a hit with foodies and scenesters who vie for prime placement in the pearl-colored booths.

### Si Tapas

Spanish  
(214) 720-0324  
www.sitapasdallas.com  
Inviting Uptown Spaniard set in a cute little house with a smattering of outdoor tables; an encyclopedic array of "tasty" tapas is on offer with ample wine and sherry options to back it up.

## Deep Ellum

### BuzzBrews Kitchen

Breakfast/Diner  
(214) 741-2801  
www.buzzbrews.com  
BUZZBREWS Kitchen is an eclectic and funky round-the-clock eatery specializing in all day breakfast favorites, omelets, south-of-the-border creations, and all-you-can-drink coffee.

### Cane Rosso

Pizza  
(214) 741-1188  
www.ilcanerosso.com  
Certified-authentic Neapolitan pizza parlor where a Naples-born pizzaiolo puts out "one of the best" pies in town plus beer and wine for not a lot of dough; P.S. a mobile oven makes the food truck rounds too.

### Local

American (New)  
(214) 752-7500  
www.localdallas.com  
With an arty, intimate, minimalist design that would be perfectly at home in Manhattan or San Francisco, tiny Local chicly inhabits Deep Ellum's Boyd Hotel, built in 1908 and the oldest standing hotel in Dallas. The wine list has some hard-to-find selections from boutique producers. The chef's tasting menu, seven courses for \$70, is a superb deal.

### Rosemont

Breakfast/Diner  
(214) 741-6066  
www.rosemontdallas.com  
A cheery, mod diner; great place for breakfast or lunch.

### Twisted Root Burger Company

Burgers  
(214) 741-7668  
www.twistedrootburgerco.com  
"Messy, juicy burgers" made from "lots of unique meats like elk, buffalo and ostrich" fill out the menu at this "popular" Dallas-bred chain also offering "enough fried sides to please anyone" and spiked milkshakes for cheap; an "energetic" staff matches the "quirky" digs. Multiple locations throughout Dallas-area.



## Oak Cliff/Bishop Arts District

### Bolsa

American (New)  
(214) 367-9367  
www.bolsadallas.com  
It can be a "mob scene" at this "foodie delight" in Oak Cliff cooking up an "exciting," ever-"changing" New American menu backed by "awesome drinks" crafted by some of the "best mixologists in Dallas." P.S. Bolsa Mercado is a separate market vending local meats, charcuterie and cheeses.

### Chicken Scratch

Southern, Comfort Food  
(214) 749-1112  
www.cs-tf.com  
"We are the slow fast food" — offering traditional cast iron fried and pecan wood-fired rotisserie chicken along with handmade sides and sauces.

### El Tizoncito

Taqueria  
(214) 330-0839  
www.eltizoncitous.com  
Small, local chain with great spit-fired tacos.

### Driftwood

Seafood  
(214) 942-2530  
www.driftwood-dallas.com  
Casual yet elegant. Driftwood was designed to be a comfortable and relaxed environment for you to enjoy your dining experience, with focus on approachable pricing.

## Oak Cliff/Bishop Arts District (cont.)

### Hattie's

American, Southern  
(214) 942-7400  
www.hatties.com

"Charleston comes to Dallas" via this American "gem" in a "buzzy area" of Oak Cliff turning out "contemporary," "fancified" takes on Low Country fare ("superb" shrimp and grits, chicken and waffles "to die for"), plus a standout Sunday brunch, in a "modern, civilized" setting; "impeccable" service, a "casual atmosphere" and moderate prices all "soothe the soul."

### Lucia

Italian  
(214) 948-4998  
www.luciadallas.com

"It takes weeks to get in" to chef David Uygur's tiny Oak Cliff Italian, but his "awesomely creative" cuisine that's "executed to perfection" is "worth the effort"; led by the chef's wife and co-owner, Jennifer, the front-of-house staff "treats you like beloved family" in the rustic 36-seat space, which is housed in a historic building dating back to the '20s.

### Smoke

American (New)  
(214) 393-4141  
www.smokerestaurant.com

So hot it's practically smoldering, this "quirky" BBQer adjacent to the Belmont Hotel takes its inspiration from the smokehouses of yore, with oak floors, "comfortable" leather banquettes and a midpriced 'farm-to-fork' menu that runs the gamut from grass-fed steaks to pickled beet salad and other "complex," "gourmet" dishes; of course there's also "amazing" 'cue galore.

## Knox-Henderson

### Abacus

American (New)  
(214) 559-3111  
www.kentrathburn.com/abacus

Not cheap, but one of the best "foodie" restaurants in Dallas; good neighborhood for drinks before and after.

### Acme F&B

American (New)  
(214) 443-0003  
www.acmefoodandbev.com

The whole animal allocation program at ACME F & B is the first of its kind in Texas. This means that the menu will change throughout the evening with regards to the proteins. While a steak is being offered at one point, sweetbreads could be offered at another.

### Adelmo's

Italian, Mediterranean  
(214) 559-0325  
www.adelmos.com

The "owner greets you at the door" at this "tiny" eponymous eatery in Knox-Henderson that recalls "NYC's Little Italy"; "stellar" cooking and a "homey ambiance" make it "perfect for a date."

### Hibiscus

American (New), Seafood  
(214) 827-2927  
www.hibiscusdallas.com

"In-the-know locals" head to this "upscale" Knox-Henderson eatery for "sophisticated" New American fare, including "fresh" seafood, and a "high-end" wine list, all served in a "California woody" space with a "hip" vibe.

### Javier's Gourmet Mexicano

Mexican  
(214) 521-4211  
www.javiers.net

If you "see the Bentleys out front, you'll know you're at the right place" quip aficionados of this Knox-Henderson hacienda where "you're treated well" while enjoying "excellent, high-end" Mexican fare in a "dark," "old-school" setting complete with a cigar room "full of trophy mounts" that's "pure Texas"; it's "always crowded," but "fun" people-watching (including occasional celebrity sightings) and "fantastic" margaritas take the edge off the wait.

### Taverna Pizzeria & Risotteria

Italian  
(214) 520-9933  
www.tavernabylobardi.com  
Customers compliment the "kitchen that seems to care" in preparing "fabulous" risotto, "delicious" pizzas and other "dependable" Italian food at this Austin-Metroplex chainlet from the Lombardi family.

### Victor Tango's

American (New)  
(214) 252-8595  
www.victortangos.com  
They "know how to make a drink" at this "loud," lively Knox-Henderson gastropub matching New American bites with stellar cocktails and craft brews; it's "pretty loud," but most don't seem to mind.

## Oak Lawn

### Bob's Steak & Chop House

Steakhouse  
(214) 528-9446  
bobs-steakandchop.com/dallas.html

Like "a private club without the monthly dues," this "old-guard steakhouse" chain pampers power brokers and sports stars with "polished" service and "succulent," "well-aged" steaks plated alongside "the biggest carrot you've ever seen" (a signature) in über-masculine digs.

### Maple & Motor

Burgers  
(214) 522-4400  
yelp.com/biz/maple-and-motor-dallas  
"Be ready for a line" because fans are calling this the "coolest burger joint around," this budget burger joint in a renovated Love Field gas station slinging "greasy, cheesy, amazing burgers," "must-try" onion rings and "tater tots that make you think you're back in elementary school."

### Mia's

Tex-Mex  
(214) 526-1020  
www.miastextmex.com  
Founded by Butch and Ana Enriquez (Mama Mia to those in-the-know), the restaurant on Lemmon Avenue has been a destination for Dallas Cowboys, film and TV stars, local celebrities, and just about everyone who visits Dallas or calls the city home. "Two words: brisket tacos."



### The Mansion Restaurant at Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek

Contemporary American  
(214) 559-2100  
www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/mansiononturtlecreek  
Chef Bruno Davaillon redefines luxury with his approachable, worldly and intensely flavorful haute Texas cuisine at the Mansion Restaurant, the most celebrated restaurant in Texas. From seafood to steaks to great wine, the Mansion is an icon to locals and visitors alike.

# DALLAS



## East Dallas/Lakewood

### Bistro Watel's

French  
(214) 720-0323  
www.watels.com

With an ever-changing menu that draws on cuisines from around the world, René Peeters' bistro in the former York Street is long on hospitality; an evening there feels like dinner in a friend's home. If the Belgian endives are on offer, don't miss them. Wine and beer only.

### Jimmy's Food Store

Italian Deli  
(214) 823-6180  
www.jimmysfoodstore.com

Authentic Italian sandwich, food and wine store. Operated by the DiCarlo Family for 42 years, they've been voted best "Muffuletta" and "Italian Sub" in Dallas! And if you want to try the Cuban Sandwich, make sure to call ahead because it has a 10-15 minute prep time.

### The Taco Joint

Mexican, Tex-Mex  
(214) 826-8226  
www.thetacojoint.com

"The Taco Joint is about friendly people, a fun atmosphere, and Tex-Mex grub that is simply awesome. We don't believe in making fancy-shmancy tacos that are more about decoration than taste – we believe in thrashing your taste buds with a roundhouse kick of flavor Chuck Norris would be proud of."

## Park Cities/Greenville

### Marquee Grill

American (Traditional)  
(214) 522-6035  
www.marqueegrill.com

"Hip, happening" "place to be seen," located adjacent to the Highland Park Village Theatre and presenting "excellent," "innovative" New Americana in a glam 1930s Hollywood setting; "attentive service" and "people-watching" galore, especially the "scene at the bar," add to the "delight."

### Shinsei

Japanese, Sushi  
(214) 352-0005  
www.shinseirestaurant.com

Lynae Fearing and Tracy Rathbun offer an "original menu" of "awesome Asian fusion" fare and the "artistry" of Elvis the sushi chef in the form of "gorgeous, fresh" nigiri and rolls; a 400-year-old carving of Buddha watches over the space with "fabulous," loungey decor.

### Terilli's

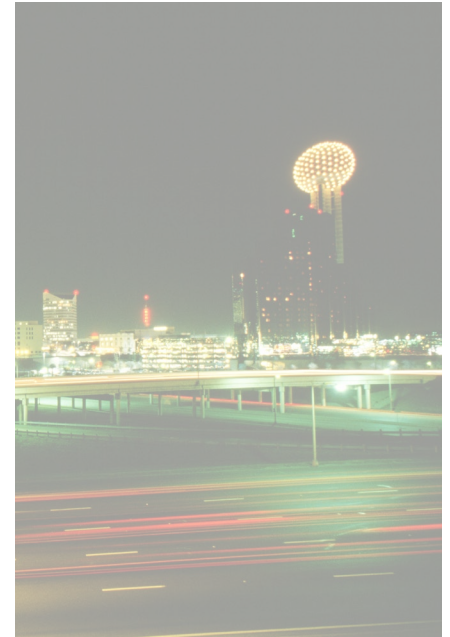
Italian  
(214) 827-3993  
www.terillis.com

A must try at this restaurant are the Italchos™ – the Italian nacho...crispy handmade pizza chips topped with your favorite toppings!

### Village Baking Co.

Bakery  
(214) 951-9077  
www.villagebakingco.com

Unbelievable pastries and breads! Boulangerie creating old world recipes using hard winter white wheat flour, a seven-year-old sourdough starter, and true-to-art fermentation.



## North Dallas

### The Mercury

American (New)  
(972) 960-7774  
www.themercurydallas.com

"Don't be fooled by the strip-mall location," for it's "beautiful inside," with a "cool, New Yorkish" ambiance and "lively" lounge scene, making it a "must-visit" for many, including former President George W. Bush.

### Neighborhood Services

American (New)  
(214) 350-5027  
www.neighborhoodservicesdallas.com

"Haute blue-plate specials" headline chef Nick Badovinus' "ingredient-driven" New American menu delivering "creative twists on homestyle food" at these "hip" "favorites"; P.S. the Tavern on Henderson is a "scaled down, more casual" version of the original.

### Princi Italia

Italian  
(214) 739-5959  
www.princiitalia.com

One of Preston Royal's long-standing Italians has been revamped by chef Kevin Ascolese and restaurateur Patrick Colombo, who augment wood-fired pizzas, pasta dishes and the like with nightly specials.

## Nightlife and Bars

### City Tavern

www.citytaverndowntown.com

### Double Wide

www.double-wide.com

### Four Lounge

www.thefourlounge.com

### Inwood Tavern

www.inwoodtaverndallas.com

### Lee Harvey's

www.leeharveys.com

### Spread Eagle Saloon

www.thespreadeaglesaloon.com

### The Mason Bar

www.themasonbar.com

### The Foundry

www.cs-tf.com

### The Cedars Social

www.thecedarsocial.com

### The Chesterfield

www.thechesterfielddallas.com

### The Ginger Man

www.dallas.gingermanpub.com

### The Grapevine Bar

www.thegrapevinebar.com

### The Old Monk

www.oldmonkdallas.com

### The People's Last Stand

www.thepeopleslaststand.com

### Top of the Dome Lounge

www.reuniontower.com

### Union Bear

www.unionbear.com

### West End Pub

www.westendpubdallas.net

## Dallas Sightseeing

### **Billy Bob's Texas**

[www.billybobstexas.com](http://www.billybobstexas.com)

### **★Cowboys Stadium★**

[stadium.dallascowboys.com](http://stadium.dallascowboys.com)

### **Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden**

[www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)

### **Dallas Arts District**

[www.thedallasartsdistrict.org](http://www.thedallasartsdistrict.org)

### **Dallas Farmers Market**

[www.dallasfarmersmarket.org](http://www.dallasfarmersmarket.org)

### **Dallas Mavericks**

[www.dallasmavericks.com](http://www.dallasmavericks.com)

### **Dallas Museum of Art**

[www.dm-art.org](http://www.dm-art.org)

### **Dallas Stars**

[www.dallasstars.com](http://www.dallasstars.com)

### **Dallas World Aquarium**

[www.dwazoo.com](http://www.dwazoo.com)

### **Deep Ellum**

[www.deepellumtexas.com](http://www.deepellumtexas.com)

### **Fort Worth Stockyards**

### **National Historic District**

[www.fortworthstockyards.org](http://www.fortworthstockyards.org)

### **Kimbell Art Museum**

[www.kimbellart.org](http://www.kimbellart.org)

### **McKinney Avenue Trolley**

[www.mata.org](http://www.mata.org)

### **Nasher Sculpture Center**

[www.nashersculpturecenter.org](http://www.nashersculpturecenter.org)

### **National Cowgirl Museum**

[www.cowgirl.net](http://www.cowgirl.net)

### **Old Red Museum**

[www.oldred.org](http://www.oldred.org)

### **Perot Museum of Nature and Science**

[www.perotmuseum.org](http://www.perotmuseum.org)

### **Six Flags Over Texas**

[www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com)

### **Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza**

[www.jfk.org](http://www.jfk.org)

### **Texas Rangers**

[www.texasrangers.com](http://www.texasrangers.com)

## Taxis

### **Ambassador Cab**

(800) 829-4222

### **Cowboy Cab & Ranger Cab Co.**

(214) 428-0202

### **Dallas Karaoke Cab**

(817) 266-1071

### **Yellow Cab**

(214) 426-6262

## Limousine Services

### **214 Executive Transportation**

(214) 298-5743

### **Executive Car Service**

(888) 825-8855

### **My Dallas Limo**

(214) 310-0790

### **Prime Limousine Inc.**

(214) 256-6725

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