

# 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](http://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](http://www.bluehoundkitchen.com)

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

### Carly's Bistro

Bistro  
(602) 262-2759  
[www.carlysbistro.com](http://www.carlysbistro.com)

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

### Durant's

Steakhouse  
(602) 264-5967  
[www.durantsaz.com](http://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!”

### Food On Wood

Italian  
(602) 358-8846

You are to find good pizza, sausages and meatballs. In accordance with the guests’ opinions, waiters offer tasty gelato, biscuits and cannolis here. Beer that you will try is delicious.

### Harumi Sushi

Japanese, Sushi Bars  
(602) 258-0131  
[www.harumisushiaz.com/](http://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/](http://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  
<https://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](http://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.

### Oak

New American  
(602) 200-8111  
<https://oakoncamelback.com/>

Featured on The Food Network, this local eatery provides an ambiance that is both cozy and industrial. House-made bread, gourmet desserts, crispy fried chicken, wood-fired pizzas and so much more.

### Pizzeria Bianco

Pizza, Italian, Sandwiches  
(602) 258-8300  
[www.pizzeriabianco.com](http://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](http://www.pomopizzeria.com)

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

## Downtown/Central Phoenix (continued)

### **Que Sazon South American Cuisine & Ceviche Bar**

South American  
(602) 919-2246

<https://que-sazon-south-american-cuisine-ceviche-bar.business.site>

South American Cuisine bringing flavors from Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Argentina serving tapas style plates giving everyone an opportunity to explore all of the Latin flavors.

### **Welcome Chicken and Donuts**

Donuts, Coffee & Tea, Chicken Shop  
(602) 258-1655

[www.welcomechickenanddonuts.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.theparlor.us)

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

### **Windsor**

American (New), Pubs  
(602) 279-1111

[www.windsoraz.com](http://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.

### Culinary Dropout

American  
(480) 240-1601  
<https://www.culinarydropout.com/locations/tempe-az/>

A place where food and music are life. Join us at happy hour for ice cold beer and our famous soft pretzels with provolone fondue. At dinner, a signature cocktail and slow braised 36-hour pork ribs are a perfect pair. While you and your crew enjoy damn good food & drinks, a local band plays live for great vibes. Come hang out and stay a while.

### 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.

### 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.fourseasons.com/scottsdale/dining/restaurants/proof/

Adobe-style hotel restaurant for American comfort classics such as chicken & waffles.

### 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

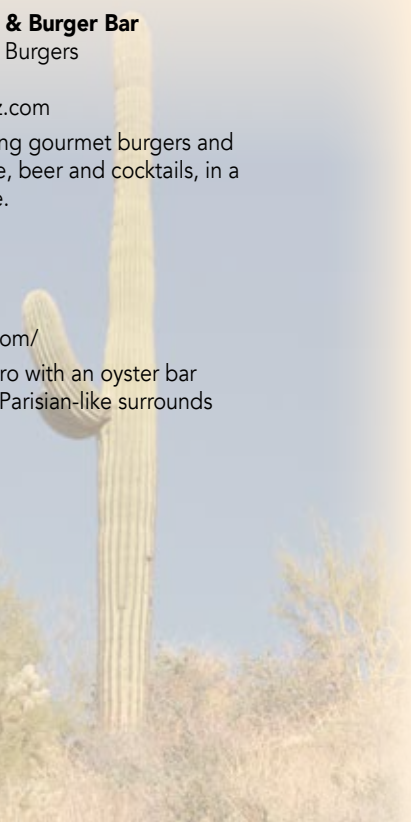
American (New), Burgers  
(480) 285-0690  
www.zinburgeraz.com

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

### Zinc Bistro

French  
(480) 603-0922  
www.zincbistro.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.

### Culinary Dropout

American Pub Food  
(480) 970-1700  
www.culinarydropout.com/locations/scottsdale-az/

A place where food and music are life. Join us at happy hour for ice cold beer and our famous soft pretzels with provolone fondue. At dinner, a signature cocktail and slow braised 36-hour pork ribs are a perfect pair. While you and your crew enjoy good food & drinks, a local band plays live for great vibes.

### 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.

### Gyros Express

Greek, Mediterranean  
(480) 483-0300  
www.gyrosexpressaz.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  
https://frankandlupesaz.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](http://www.barrioqueen.com)

Mexico City soul food.

### **Coconuts Fish Café**

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

A taste of Hawaii in Arizona.

### **The Jade Palace**

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

Excellent and authentic Chinese food.

### **The Living Room Wine Café & Lounge**

[www.livingroomwinebar.com](http://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](http://www.postinowinecafe.com)

Wine and small plates in a great atmosphere.

### **Spinato's Pizzeria**

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

Longtime, family-run pizzeria offering classic and creative pies.

### **The Vig**

[www.thevig.us](http://www.thevig.us)

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

### **Welcome Diner**

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

A retro diner with southern style comfort food classics.

## Nightlife and Bars

**Bar Bianco** – [www.pizzeriabianco.com/bar-bianco](http://www.pizzeriabianco.com/bar-bianco)

**Bar Smith** – [www.barsmithphoenix.com](http://www.barsmithphoenix.com)

**The Beverly** – [www.thebeverly.us](http://www.thebeverly.us)

**Bikini Lounge** – [www.facebook.com/theBikiniLounge/](http://www.facebook.com/theBikiniLounge/)

**Bitter & Twisted** – [www.bitterandtwistedaz.com](http://www.bitterandtwistedaz.com)

**Blue Hound Kitchen & Cocktails** – [www.bluehoundkitchen.com](http://www.bluehoundkitchen.com)

**Blue Martini** – [www.bluemartini.com](http://www.bluemartini.com)

**Bull Shooters** – [www.bullshooters-az.com](http://www.bullshooters-az.com)

**CASA Tempe** – [www.casatempe.com](http://www.casatempe.com)

**Coach House** – [www.coachhousescottsdale.com](http://www.coachhousescottsdale.com)

**Copper Blues** – [www.copperblueslive.com](http://www.copperblueslive.com)

**Crescent Ballroom** – [www.crescentphx.com](http://www.crescentphx.com)

**The District** – [www.districtbaraz.com](http://www.districtbaraz.com)

**The Duce** – [www.theducephx.com](http://www.theducephx.com)

**Hanny's** – [www.hannys.net](http://www.hannys.net)

**Hi Fi Kitchen & Cocktails** – [www.hifibars.com/](http://www.hifibars.com/)

**Kazimierz** – [www.kazbarscottsdale.com/](http://www.kazbarscottsdale.com/)

**Last Drop at the Hermosa** – [www.hermosainn.com/lons/last-drop-bar](http://www.hermosainn.com/lons/last-drop-bar)

**The Lost Leaf** – [www.thelostleaf.org](http://www.thelostleaf.org)

**Maya Day + Nightclub** – [www.mayaclubaz.com](http://www.mayaclubaz.com)

**Merc Bar** – [www.mercbar.com](http://www.mercbar.com)

**Mill Cue Club** – [www.millcueclub.com](http://www.millcueclub.com)

**The Nash** – [www.thenash.org](http://www.thenash.org)

**Rockbar Inc** – [www.rockbarscottsdale.com](http://www.rockbarscottsdale.com)

**Rhythm Room** – [www.rhythmroom.com](http://www.rhythmroom.com)

**Seamus McCaffrey's** – [www.seamusmccaffreys.com](http://www.seamusmccaffreys.com)

**Taste of Tops** – [www.topliquors.com](http://www.topliquors.com)

**The Whining Pig** – [www.thewhiningpig.com](http://www.thewhiningpig.com)

## Phoenix Sightseeing

**Arizona Science Center** – [www.azscience.org](http://www.azscience.org)

**Castles N' Coasters** – [www.castlesncoasters.com](http://www.castlesncoasters.com)

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

**Desert Botanical Garden** – [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org)

**Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin West** – [www.franklloydwright.org](http://www.franklloydwright.org)

**Flying V Cabin** – [www.pioneeraz.org/flying-v-cabin-original-building](http://www.pioneeraz.org/flying-v-cabin-original-building)

**Heard Museum** – [www.heard.org](http://www.heard.org)

**Hot Air Balloon Rides** – [www.go-arizona.com/Phoenix/Hot-Air-Balloon](http://www.go-arizona.com/Phoenix/Hot-Air-Balloon)

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

**Japanese Friendship Garden** – [www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org](http://www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org)

**Martin Auto Museum** – [www.martinautomuseum.com](http://www.martinautomuseum.com)

**Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot** – [www.nps.gov/moca](http://www.nps.gov/moca)

**Musical Instrument Museum** – [www.mim.org](http://www.mim.org)

**Mystery Castle** – [www.mymysterycastle.com](http://www.mymysterycastle.com)

**Phoenix Art Museum** – [www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org)

**Phoenix Theatre** – [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com)

**Phoenix Zoo** – [www.phoenixzoo.org](http://www.phoenixzoo.org)

**Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum** – [www.pioneeraz.org](http://www.pioneeraz.org)

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

**Sedona** – [www.visitsedona.com](http://www.visitsedona.com)

**Tovrea Castle** – [www.tovreacastletours.com](http://www.tovreacastletours.com)

**Western Destinations Canyon Creek Ranch – Tours** – [www.westerndestinations.com](http://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](http://www.lyft.com)

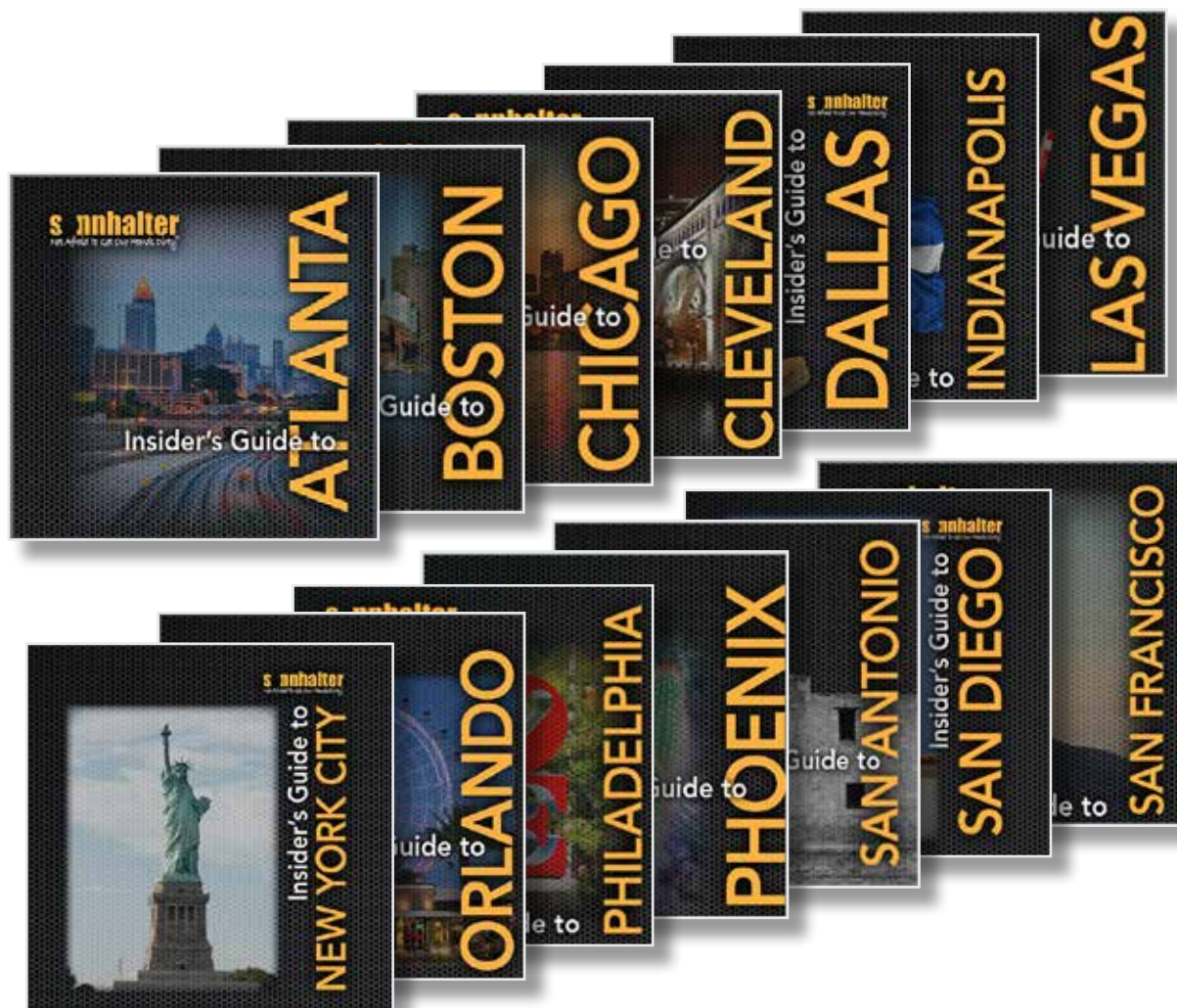
Scottsdale Cab Company – (480) 577-1111

Sunrise Cab – (602) 800-9941

Uber – [www.uber.com](http://www.uber.com)

## FOR INSIDER'S GUIDES TO OTHER CITIES:

[sonnhalter.com/insiders-guides](http://sonnhalter.com/insiders-guides)



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Not Afraid To Get Our Hands Dirty™