

## Insider's Guide to

# GRAND RAPIDS

**Welcome to Grand Rapids** — a city known for its thriving arts scene, craft beer culture and beautiful outdoor spaces! We've put together the Sonnhalter Insider's Guide to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for you to have the best guide to exploring this city.

Start your adventure by savoring the city's culinary offerings, from local breweries to farm-to-table restaurants. Known as Beer City USA, Grand Rapids has dozens of breweries, bars, and lounges to discover.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy scenic parks, trails, and the nearby shores of Lake Michigan. Whether you're exploring the Frederik Meijer Gardens, visiting the Grand Rapids Public Museum, or enjoying the local dining scene, Grand Rapids offers something for everyone!

### **Bistro Bella Vita**

Italian/French

616-222-4600

<https://bistrobellavita.com/>

Taste the difference of the highest quality cuisine made from scratch with sustainably sourced ingredients. Their specialty is modern French & Italian, including homemade pasta, brick-oven pizzas, rotisserie-roasted meats, and freshly prepared desserts.

### **Bobarino's Pizzeria**

Italian

616-356-2000

[www.thebob.com/bobarinos/](http://www.thebob.com/bobarinos/)

Wood-fired pizza and craft beer. A diversity of experiences can be had at Bobarino's, including open-air dining on the Sky Deck, made-to-order pizza topped with fresh produce from the live wall, games, and live entertainment.

### **Butcher's Union**

American/Bar

616-551-1323

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

Modern gastropub with a meat-heavy menu of globally inspired fare, 100+ whiskeys & draft beer.

### **Donkey Taqueria**

Mexican

616-259-9483

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

Michigan's award winning taqueria and tequila bar in the heart of Grand Rapids' historic Wealthy Street Business District. Using the finest local and Mexican ingredients—serving 100% blue agave tequila and chips, guacamole, and tortillas in house daily.

### **Gin Gin's**

Bistro

616-341-9124

<https://ginginsgr.com/>

American bistro serving steaks, seafood, and pasta, plus cocktails, beer, and wine.

### **Grove**

American

616-454-1000

<https://groverestaurant.com/>

Explore their artful menu—where every ingredient is thoughtfully sourced, and every drink is carefully crafted. At grove, you'll enjoy impeccable cuisine and service for a truly unforgettable experience.

### **Ju Sushi and Lounge**

Japanese/Sushi

616-575-5858

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

Premier sushi lounge offering more than just Sushi, their menu also includes traditional Japanese entrees, a full-service bar, and a dining experience.

### **Leo's Seafood Restaurant & Bar**

Seafood

616-454-6700

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

Exquisite seafood, classic cuisine, and decadent desserts. Enjoy their extensive variety of curated wines, carefully crafted cocktails, and local craft beers.

### **Linear**

Modern American

616-200-4343

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

Cool, industrial-style hot spot with outdoor seats for seasonal American cuisine & craft cocktails.

## Little Bird

American Bistro

616-419-4168

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

Classic cafe with counter seating for unique fare, clever cocktails & house-made fountain drinks.

## Luna

Mexican

616-288-6340

<https://lunagr.com/>

Hip, modern Mexican restaurant serving tacos & creative cocktails in a dark, stylish space.

## MDRD

Spanish

616-776-6425

<https://amwaygrand.com/dining/mdrd>

High above Grand Rapids' lively cityscape on the 27th floor of the Amway Grand Plaza, relish the captivating scenery at a table surrounded by panoramic views of the Grand River. Revel in the rhythm of Madrid as you savor modern Spanish cuisine including expressive entrées, tantalizing shareables, along with decadent desserts and lavish libations.

## Mangiamo

Italian

616-742-0600

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

Elegant eatery serving contemporary international cuisine in a space that has outdoor seating. The menu strikes a balance between elevated Italian classics, steaks, seafood, and contemporary cuisine. For the more adventurous, Mo's Cocktail Lounge awaits deep in the heart of the mansion.

## Max's South Seas Hideaway

American

616-551-0016

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

Tropical-themed eatery and bar with a giant collection of tiki art and decor, and original drinks.

## MeXo

Mexican/Seafood

616-828-4123

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

MeXo is a restaurant and Tequila/Mezcal bar. The cuisine brings a modern touch to the classic pre-Hispanic food of Mexico.

## One Twenty Three

Burger Joint

616-900-9123

<https://123gr.com/>

The tastes you know. In a way you didn't. They didn't invent meatloaf or burger—obviously. But they did find a way to twist American favorites into something new and exciting. Hip, industrial-chic option dishing up elevated sandwiches, burgers & mains, plus craft cocktails.

## Pietro's Italian Restaurant

Italian

616-452-3228

<https://pietrosgr.com/>

Known for its classic and signature pastas including West Michigan's number one pasta dish, Fettuccine Michael. As soon as you walk through the hand-carved Tuscan doors, you'll enter the aroma of fresh-baked bread and hand-crafted house-made ravioli all made in their pasta shop daily. Authentic Tuscan tile floors and hand-carved booths.

## San Chez A Tapas Bistro

Spanish

616-774-8272

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

San Chez Bistro offers a blend of authentic European, Mediterranean, and Latin American cuisine in a fun, laid-back, and artful atmosphere.

## Scholar

Modern

616-980-9073

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

American history-inspired fare, including buffalo meatballs and bison short ribs, served in a stylish space.

## Sheshco Mediterranean Grill

Mediterranean

616-364-0600

<https://sheshcogrill.com/>

Airy eatery with a relaxed vibe offering Mediterranean staples including kebabs, hummus & shawarma.

## Stella's Lounge

American

616-742-4444

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

Home for award-winning giant stuffed burgers, 250+ whiskeys, retro arcade, and vegan/vegetarian specialties, along with graffitied walls, set the tone for this bar.

## The Commons

American

616-458-2704

[www.common-gr.online/](http://www.common-gr.online/)

Low-key eatery with wood paneling & wallpaper offering American comfort staples, beers & cocktails. The Commons is the place to be for throw-back American dining with a retro twist. Their menu features dishes assembled from the freshest ingredients, sure to bring bold and nostalgic flavors to your life.

## The Mitten Brewing Co.

American

616-608-5612

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

The Mitten Brewing Co. is a vintage baseball-themed microbrewery that expertly pairs handcrafted beers with gourmet pizzas.

## The Sovengard

Scandinavian

616-214-7207

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

Seasonal produce is given a Scandinavian treatment at this hip destination with a terrace. Warm lighting, craft cocktails, and seasonally driven dishes that make you slow down and savor. They're serving up all the cozy and all the flavors.

## **Tupelo Honey Cafe**

American

616-239-7158

<https://tupelohoneycafe.com/restaurant/grand-rapids/>

Scratch-made & responsibly sourced Southern food including their famous fried chicken to seasonal delights. Their chef-inspired Southern food is available for brunch, lunch, dinner, and happy hour.

## **Zivio**

Greek

616-608-3534

<https://ziviogr.com/>

Modern European cuisine restaurant Greek, Turkish & Bosnian standards delivered at this low-key place offering cocktails & desserts.

## **Nightlife & Bars**

### **Anchor Bar**

[www.yelp.com/biz/the-anchor-grand-rapids](http://www.yelp.com/biz/the-anchor-grand-rapids)

### **Apartment Lounge**

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

### **Birch Lodge**

[www.facebook.com/Birchlodge/](http://www.facebook.com/Birchlodge/)

### **Blue Dog Tavern**

<https://bluedogtaverngr.com/>

### **Brick and Porter**

<https://brickandportergr.com/>

### **Broadway Bar**

[www.facebook.com/people/broadway-bar/100049803764180/](http://www.facebook.com/people/broadway-bar/100049803764180/)

### **Buffalo Traders Lounge**

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

### **Cottage Bar**

<https://cottagebar.biz/>

### **Drip Drop Cocktail Room**

<https://dripdropcocktailroom.com/>

### **Flanagan's Irish Pub**

[www.instagram.com/flanagans\\_gr/](http://www.instagram.com/flanagans_gr/)

### **Founders Brewing Co**

<https://foundersbrewing.com/>

### **Garage Bar**

<https://garagebargr.com/>

### **Hopcat**

[www.hopcat.com/grand-rapids/home](http://www.hopcat.com/grand-rapids/home)

### **House Rules**

<https://houseruleslounge.com/>

### **IDC**

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

### **K-ROK Korean Barbeque**

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

### **Knoop**

[www.canopygrandrapidsrestaurants.com/knoop/](http://www.canopygrandrapidsrestaurants.com/knoop/)

### **Lumber Baron Bar**

<https://amwaygrand.com/dining/lumber-baron-bar>

### **Mojo's Dueling Piano Bar and Restaurant**

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

### **Pursuit of Happiness**

[www.pursuitofhappiness.co/](http://www.pursuitofhappiness.co/)

### **Pyramid Scheme**

<https://pyramidschemebar.com/>

### **Sidebar**

[www.sidebar-gr.com](http://www.sidebar-gr.com)

### **Social House**

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

### **SpeakEZ Lounge**

<https://speakezlounge.com/>

### **Stella's Lounge**

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

### **The Grand Woods Lounge**

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

### **The Holiday Bar**

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

### **The Intersection**

<https://sectionlive.com/>

### **The Iron Well**

<https://theironwell.com/>

### **Turnstiles**

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

### **Z's Bar and Restaurant**

<https://zsbar.com/>

## Sightseeing

### **Blandford Nature Center**

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

### **Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens**

<https://calvin.edu/ecosystem-preserve/>

### **Cathedral of Saint Andrew**

<https://grcathedral.org/>

### **Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**

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

### **Fulton Street Market**

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

### **Gerald R. Ford Museum**

[www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/)

### **Grand Rapids Art Museum**

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

### **Grand Rapids Public Museum**

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

### **Grand Rapids Symphony**

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

### **Heritage Hill Historic District**

<https://heritagehillweb.org/>

### **John Ball Zoo**

<https://jbzoo.org/>

### **Meyer May House**

<https://meyermayhouse.steelcase.com/>

### **Mo's Cocktail Lounge**

[www.mangiamogr.com/mos/](http://www.mangiamogr.com/mos/)

### **The American Horse by Nina Akamu**

[www.meijergardens.org/sculpture/the-american-horse/](http://www.meijergardens.org/sculpture/the-american-horse/)

### **Van Andel Arena**

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

## Transportation

**24 Hour Sylvain Chauffeur Service LLC** 616-516-2018

**AbyRide Taxi Service** 616-633-7026

**Arch Car Services** 616-901-4950

**Excel Taxi Service** 616-655-6237

**Express Executive Cars, LLC** 616-406-9664

**Grand Rapid Car Service** 616-821-3836

**Grand Rapids Car Service** 616-499-3683

**Guscar Transportation** 616-828-9596

**Metro Cab One** 616-308-6559

**My Taxi Svc** 616-456-8222

**Shawn's Taxi Services** 616-500-3544



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

