AURORA Eats

A guide to the city’s independent and ethnic restaurants, bars, and markets

AuroraEats.org

GoAurora.org
Aurora is one of Colorado’s most diverse cities: More than 160 foreign languages are spoken here! And that vibrancy extends to our food, with nearly 200 authentic, specialty restaurants to enjoy within our borders. (We’re also home to many Colorado-founded chains and national and global favorites that have chosen Aurora as their only Centennial State location.) Ready to eat and drink like a local? Use this guide to experience a world of flavors at our abundant lineup of local, independent eateries and markets. We hope you’re hungry!

“Aurora is the destination in Colorado for authentic cuisine. Our city is home to hundreds of global markets and award-winning local ethnic and independent eateries, and breweries. For decades we’ve been showcasing Aurora’s rich diversity that has brought intriguing flavors, smells and recipes from around our nation and the world. And for almost as long, we have been highlighting these culinary treats through this food guide. We hope you brought your appetite – let our dining scene transport you through your tastebuds!”

Mayor Mike Coffman

PRICE KEY
(average entrée)
$ - $10 or less
$$ - $11 to $15
$$$ - $16 to $24
$$$$ - $25 and higher

ICONS
- Vegan/Vegetarian
- Ghost Kitchen
- Delivery/Takeout only
- Halal
* Based off website information

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African

ETHIOPIAN

ADDIS ABABA
RESTAURANT
2222 S. Havana St.
303.368.8021
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
Addis Ababa serves Ethiopian favorites alongside fresh injera bread; the combination plates (meat or vegetarian) offer a varied taste of the cuisine. Pair your order with a cup of Ethiopian coffee.

EATOMPI
1030 Havana St., Unit A
303.360.7372
eatopia.wix.com/chef-seble
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest
Here, chef Seble shares the warmth and hospitality of Ethiopian cuisine all day long. In the a.m., start with kinche (oatmeal seasoned with Ethiopian spice and butter). For lunch, try the house specialty: kitfo, a dish made from minced and marinated raw beef that can be cooked to your liking.

GOLF ETHIOPIAN
RESTAURANT
10 S. Havana St., Unit 110
303.340.4555
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
North Central
Enjoy traditional Ethiopian eats at this small, family-run restaurant. Popular dishes include beef or lamb tibs and shiro (a vegetarian stew made from chickpeas). There’s also a selection of sandwiches and coffees and teas, often brewed with honey.

HIRA CAFE &
PATISSERIE
10782 E. Iliff Ave.
720.949.1703
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
Southwest
Though it’s open into the evening, HiRa is focused on morning eats. Pair your organic Ethiopian coffee with scratch-made pastries and Ethiopian breakfast plates from pastry chef-owner Hiwot Solomon, who also crafts exquisite custom cakes.

MEGENAGNA
GROCERY AND
RESTAURANT
306 S. Ironton St.
720.532.0266
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$$
North Central
At this one-stop shop, you can satisfy your immediate Ethiopian food cravings with tibs or kitfo and then stock up on fresh meats, spices, and injera from the small market next door.

NILE ETHIOPIAN
RESTAURANT
1951 S. Havana St.
720.748.0239
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
Every visit here requires an order of Ethiopian coffee and spongy injera (a traditional flatbread). You’ll use the latter to scoop up delicious bites, from beef simmered with berbere (an Ethiopian spice blend) to the vegetarian combo plate with lentils, yellow split peas, and chickpeas.

PORTICO
RESTAURANT &
SPORTS BAR
1050 S. Havana St.
303.343.1390
porticoethiopianrestaurant.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
North Central
Ethiopian and Eritrean specialties fill the menu at this modern spot with a lounge vibe (bottle service is available). Try a late breakfast of fava bean stew; later in the day, it’s all about beef- and lamb-based dishes, like tibs, an African stir-fry.

AKWABA
RESTAURANT
16251 E. Colfax Ave., Unit 210
720.519.1993 / 720.467.2329
akwabarestaurant.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northeast
“Akwaba” means “welcome” in Ghanaian, and you’ll certainly feel welcomed in with Akwaba’s African decor and homestyle West African dishes. Think: jollof rice, beef and chicken kebabs, and whole fish dishes served with a side of attiéké (cassava), fried plantains, and more.

GHANAIAN
Every culture uses its own unique blends of spices and herbs—combinations that immediately tell your palate where in the world it is. In Ethiopia, that one-of-a-kind flavor comes from berbere. The versatile spice blend is composed primarily of chiles, ginger, fenugreek, allspice, cinnamon, coriander, cardamom, cumin, cloves, and peppercorns. It's often used to marinate meat and flavor stews (including doro wat, Ethiopia's national dish) or sprinkled on top of fruit. Make your own at home or find it at Megenagna Grocery and Restaurant or online at the Spice Guy.

Find a list of Aurora’s independent Ethiopian restaurants on page 4.
2022 WINNER OF THE JAMES BEARD AWARD FOR BEST CHEF: MOUNTAIN (CO, ID, MT, UT, WY)

ANNETTE
2501 Dallas St.
720.710.9975
annettescratchtotable.com
Dinner
$$$$
Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
Elevated, scratch-made American cuisine is the focus at this celebrated eatery (chef-owner Caroline Glover now a James Beard award winner and named one of the 10 best new chefs in the country by Food & Wine). The menu rolls with the seasons, and many of the shareable plates are kissed by the wood-fire oven. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

BENDER’S BRAT HAUS
700 S. Buckley Road, Suite A
303.872.3569
bendersbrathaus.com
Lunch
$
North Central
Aurora’s unpretentious bastion of Wisconsin comfort fare grinds and fills its own links before grilling them, popping them onto a fresh bun, and letting the customers fix ‘em at the condiment bar. Also on the menu: the krautburger, made with ground beef and cabbage.

CARM & GIA METROPOLITAN
9598 E. Montview Blvd.
303.747.4008
carmandgiometropolitan.com
Brunch, Lunch, Dinner
$
Northwest
Combining the best of Denver’s unique Den-Mex flavors and Chicago street food, the cozy Carm & Gia is where you go when you want a really good burger (there are more than 20 options) or a char-grilled sausage. Weekend brunch is all about burritos and breakfast sandwiches paired with a mimosa. Enjoy your meal on the massive patio.

THE COPPER POT AT SADDLE ROCK
6020 S. Gun Club Road
720.485.3111
copperpotfamily.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
Southeast
Many of the classic comfort food dishes here—be prepared for big portions—are named after longtime customers, like Carla’s Buffalo Chicken Alfredo and Donny’s Favorite Sandwich. There’s also a full bar.

DENVER BISCUIT COMPANY
2501 Dallas St.
303.377.7900
denbisco.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$$
Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
Find a dozen creative takes on the biscuit sandwich, like the Winona with buttermilk fried chicken and cheese or the breakfast-focused Tomahawk with sausage and egg. There’s a small bar too. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

DOZENS RESTAURANT
2180 S. Havana St.
303.337.6627
dozenrestaurant.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$$
Southwest
This long-standing breakfast and lunch spot has something for everyone: omelets, French toast, eggs Benedict, and so much more in the mornings; soups, salads, and sandwiches once the sun is up. Pastries—including the famed cinnamon roll—are baked fresh daily, and the pork green chili is always a hit.

AURORA EATERY
14200 E. Alameda Ave.
auroraeatery.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
North Central
A collection of more than a dozen virtual kitchens (takeout- and delivery-only spaces) at Town Center at Aurora. Taste global dishes like Momo Dumplings’ traditional Nepalese-style pockets and Lechonera La Familia’s Puerto Rican street food.

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GET YOUR DAY STARTED ON A HEALTHY NOTE WITH BUILD-YOUR-OFF BREAKFAST BOWLS AND BURRITOS. (THERE ARE FRESH-BAKED PASTRIES AND COFFEE TOO.) SALADS, WRAPS, AND GRAIN BOWLS COMprise THE LUNCHTIME LINEUP AT THIS QUICK-SERVICE EATERY ON THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS.

**THE FRENCH PRESS CAFE AND BAKERY**
15290 E. Iliff Ave.
303.369.3111
myfrenchpress.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$$
Southwest
Wake up with coffee drinks made with beans from Denver's own Pablo's Coffee. In the morning, dig into the lox Benedict, seasonal French toast, or a reliable breakfast burrito. The turkey melt is a customer favorite on the equally expansive lunch menu.

**GOLDEN FLAME HOT WINGS**
18787 E. Hampden Ave., Unit 156
303.690.1171
gfhwings.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
South Central
Stock up for game day with bone-in or boneless chicken wings tossed in your choice of 18 sauces, plus a variety of specialty fries, fried appetizers, and family-size meal combos. There's also a full bar and an outdoor patio.

**JUS GRILL**
17200 E Iliff Ave Ste 100
720.513.2979
jusgrillauroraco.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
South Central
Jus Grill serves traditional American fusion food and there is no lack menu items to choose from. This family-friendly restaurant offers everything from Cajun catfish to Tex Mex.

**SAM'S NO. 3**
2580 S. Havana St.
303.751.0347
samsno3.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$$
Southwest
This long-standing, family-run diner serves a familiar—and page-turning—menu of American, Tex-Mex, and Greek food, plus a lineup of caffeinated and boozy drinks. Having trouble deciding what to eat? The pork green chile was featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.

**ROSENBERG’S BAGELS & DELICATESSEN**
2501 Dallas St.
303.955.0466
rosenbergsbagels.com/stanley
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
New York–style bagel sandwiches for breakfast and lunch, and pizzas and Italian sandwiches at night. Don’t forget to order some schmears, deli meats, and breads to take home. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

**NGL BURGERS**
382 S. Chambers Road
303.752.2521
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
North Central
Don’t be misled by the name: This family-owned spot is more than big burgers at an affordable price, though the burger deluxe (with bacon and avocado) is a top-seller. You’ll also find a lineup of Mexican bites, such as the breakfast burrito and carne asada plate.

**ROOSIE’S DINER**
14061 E. Iltiff Ave.
303.752.3663
rosiesdiner.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
Groove to old-school tunes (there are jukeboxes at each table) over a meal of classic diner food at this 1950s-inspired eatery. The all-day menu spans smothered burritos to fried chicken to a whole lot o’ burgers. Did we mention there are more than a dozen milkshake flavors?
**BARBECUE**

**HUNGRY WOLF BBQ**  
13110 E. Mississippi Ave.  
303.750.2344  
hungry-wolf-bbq.com  
Lunch, Dinner  
$$  
Southwest  
Dig into hickory-smoked meats like ribs, rib tips, and pulled pork, or go for the fried catfish. On the side, choose between Oklahoma-style collard greens, potato salad, and baked beans. Just be sure and save room for a slice of peach cobbler.

**ROLLING SMOKE BAR-B-QUE**  
2501 Dallas St.  
720.573.4142  
rollingsmokebbq.co  
Lunch, Dinner  
$$  
Northwest  

**CEDAR CREEK PUB**  
2100 N. Ursula St.  
303.537.4124  
cedarcreekpub.com  
Lunch, Dinner  
$$  
Northwest  
Scrubs are common attire at this American pub just north of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. The rotating beer roster is strong with local options, and the full bar includes Colorado wines. The menu is focused on salads, sandwiches, and burgers; try the chipotle chicken or Philly cheesesteak.

**THE FAMOUS DOOR BAR & GRILL 2**  
15220 E. Hampden Ave.  
720.870.3236  
Lunch, Dinner  
$  
South Central  
Come for the myriad pool tables. Stay for the friendly staff and menu of burgers and shareable appetizers.

**LEGENDS OF AURORA SPORTS GRILL**  
13690 E Iliff Ave  
303.671.0560  
LegendsOfAurora.com  
Lunch, Dinner  
$$  
Northwest / Southwest  
Legends is a great neighborhood spot to watch a game, play trivia, have a drink, and nosh on some good bar food. This Aurora favorite for locals and travels is a family friendly place that offers a good happy hour and a variety of tasty classic foods like award-winning pizzas, wings, salads, and more.

**THE FRONTIER CLUB**  
18881 E. Colfax Ave.  
303.367.8637  
thefrontierclubaurora.com  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
$$  
Northeast  
With live music on weekends, a handful of pool tables, and plenty of seating, the Frontier Club is a hub of activity. Sustenance is available in the form of chicken wings, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican classics, and pasta. Plus, of course, there’s the full bar.

**HIDEAWAY LOUNGE**  
2627 S. Parker Road  
303.671.4633  
hideawayaurora.com  
Dinner  
$  
Southwest  
There’s nothing more satisfying than the game on the TV and a pint of beer and a Philly cheesesteak on the table in front of you. At least, that’s why you come to this quintessential sports bar, where you can also get your own competition going on the pool or foosball tables.

**PUBS & SPORTS BARS**

**BACKSTREET TAVERN & GRILL**  
1150 S. Galena St.  
303.745.4003  
Lunch, Dinner  
$  
North Central  
This is first and foremost a bar, with cold beer on tap, pool tables at the ready, and live sports on the TVs. But there are also three patios and a menu full of American classics, such as burgers, a staff favorite Reuben sandwich, burritos, and salads.

**BOOKMAKERS BURGERS BOURBON BREWS**  
25791 E. Smoky Hill Road  
303.353.8298  
bookmakersbarandgrill.com  
Lunch, Dinner  
$$  
Southeast  
With more than 150 bourbons, whiskeys, and ryes available—including plenty from local distillers—you’re in for a treat! Now you just need to decide which made-with-Colorado-beef burger (or sandwich or salad) to pair it with.

**FAT BOYS SPORTS BAR & GRILL**  
10660 E. Alameda Ave.  
303.344.1905  
fatboysportsbarandgrill.com  
Brunch, Lunch, Dinner  
$$  
South Central  
A friendly spot to catch the game, Fat Boys is known for its catfish, burgers, smoked ribs, and pulled pork, wings, and salads—plus sizable portions.

**THE FRONTIER CLUB**  
18881 E. Colfax Ave.  
303.367.8637  
thefrontierclubaurora.com  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
$$  
Northeast  
With live music on weekends, a handful of pool tables, and plenty of seating, the Frontier Club is a hub of activity. Sustenance is available in the form of chicken wings, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican classics, and pasta. Plus, of course, there’s the full bar.

**HIDEAWAY LOUNGE**  
2627 S. Parker Road  
303.671.4633  
hideawayaurora.com  
Dinner  
$  
Southwest  
There’s nothing more satisfying than the game on the TV and a pint of beer and a Philly cheesesteak on the table in front of you. At least, that’s why you come to this quintessential sports bar, where you can also get your own competition going on the pool or foosball tables.
JJ’S PLACE
2340 S. Chambers Road
303.369.1704
jjsplaceaurora.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
South Central
This all-day sports bar has food to match whenever the game is on, from morning omelets to later-in-the-day salads, wings, and burgers. Wash it down with a well-crafted Moscow mule. Take note: Though JJ’s is open extra-late, the kitchen closes around 11 p.m.

THE ROYAL HILLTOP
18581 E. Hampden Ave., Unit 134
303.690.7738
royalhilltop.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
South Central
A regularly rotating tap list of beers from around the world—including Colorado—keeps things fresh at this cozy tavern. The beer-battered fish and chips is a customer favorite, but you’ll also find sandwiches, burgers, easy-to-share appetizers, and even mussels on the menu.

PITCHER’S SPORTS BAR & RESTAURANT
1670 S. Chambers Road
303.751.7115
pitcherssportsgrill.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
It’s all about fun at Pitcher’s, where the game is always on, seven pool tables await, and the karaoke machine is running on Friday and Saturday nights. When hunger pangs strike, load up on potato skins, wings, sandwiches, burgers, or breakfast all day.

SOUTHERN
CORAFAYE’S CAFE
15395 E. Colfax Ave.
303.333.5551
corafayescafe.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northeast
You’re likely to be called ma’am and sir at this mecca of Southern home cooking. Family recipes form the basis of a menu chock-full of quintessential soul food like fried catfish, fried chicken, candied yams, and collard greens.

THE ROCK RESTAURANT & BAR
22934 E. Smoky Hill Road
303.690.7934
rockrestaurantandbar.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southeast
You’ll find a little bit of everything at the Rock, including breakfast until 1 p.m. every day. Sit on the covered outdoor patio—with views all the way to Pikes Peak—and enjoy a hearty sandwich or chiles rellenos. The house Rock-A-Rita pairs with it all.

SWIRK SOUL FOOD
2205 S. Peoria St.
303.337.0549
swirksoulfoodtogo.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
Travel south for some soul food classics at Swirk: catfish, hot links, ribs (pork or beef), and fried chicken with all the fixings. Of course, you don’t want to overlook the sides, with offerings like fried okra and mac and cheese.
**EGG ROLL KING EAST**
4217 S. Buckley Road
303.699.2880
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southeast
Regulars appreciate the generous portions of Thai, Chinese, and Vietnamese dishes—and, of course, the namesake egg rolls, which are filled with either pork or vegetables. The beverage roster includes Thai iced tea and Vietnamese coffee as well as beer and wine.

**FORTUNE KITCHEN**
12120 E. Mississippi Ave.
303.369.2675
fortunekitchenonline.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
You can’t dine in, but you can carry out Asian cuisine mainstays, such as beef and broccoli, Mongolian pork, and lo mein. The menu also features an excellent selection of vegetarian dishes.

**HIBACHI GRILL & SUPREME BUFFET**
1026 S Sable Blvd
303.337.4264
hibachigrillcotogo.com
Lunch, dinner
North Central
Hibachi Grill and Supreme Buffet offers a range of menu items ranging from sushi to traditional hibachi cuisine. Make sure to check out the buffet – its namesake won’t disappoint!

**EAST CHINA ASIAN CUISINE**
15510 E. Centretech Parkway
303.363.6689
eastchinaaurora.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
North Central
East China serves the best of Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese cuisine. That means you can enjoy pad Thai while your dining date digs into a plate of kung pao chicken. Opt for a Thai iced tea or something stronger from the bar.

**GOLDEN SKY SUSHI**
10180 E. Colfax Ave.
720.628.3255
goldenskysushi.com
Lunch, Dinner
$
Northwest / Mango House
Founded by Burmese refugees, Golden Sky serves a tight menu of sushi, noodles, and teriyaki rice bowls influenced by the cuisines of China, Japan, and Thailand. Located inside Mango House.
HONEY BEE ASIAN BISTRO
18541 E. Hampden Ave., Suite 126
303.400.6117
honeybeeasianbistro.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
South Central
Dine in, take out, or have your meal delivered at this neighborhood Asian restaurant. The food lineup spans from classic Chinese dishes (the sesame chicken is a fave) to Korean noodle bowls to Thai curries. Don’t overlook the boba drinks or mochi ice cream for dessert.

LITTLE PANDA
18121 E. Hampden Ave.
303.766.7783
auroralittlepanda.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
South Central
It’s takeout only at this Asian eatery, where the menu includes a broad mix of favorites, from miso soup to sweet and sour shrimp to udon noodles.

KP ASIAN CAFE
12201 E. Mississippi Ave.
720.456.7745
kpasiancafe.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
North Central
KP cooks up a variety of Asian cuisines, but the restaurant is best known for its Cantonese-style dishes. Don’t overlook the spicy Szechuan section of the menu if you like some heat.

NEW NAGOYA RESTAURANT
10761 E. Alameda Ave.
720.277.3539
nagoyahibachiexpressco.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
North Central
Chinese and Japanese staples are on the (extensive) menu, but the highlight is the array of hibachi dishes accompanied by rice and grilled vegetables.

POKE-MEN
23955 E. Plaza Ave., Unit G-103
720.274.5700
poke-men.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southeast / Southlands
Refuel from shopping with build-your-own poke bowls and belly-warming ramen. Looking for something light and refreshing? Opt for boba tea or taiyaki ice cream. Located at Southlands.

THE PORKLET
12201 E. Mississippi Ave., Unit 123B
303.364.1287
theporklet.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northeast
This Japanese-Korean fusion spot is the perfect locale for a casual meal: Order at the counter and sit at one of the nine tables to await your crispy-skinned pork or chicken cutlet—served with soup, macaroni salad, and a twirl of cabbage. (Udon, Spam fried rice, rice cake appetizers, and more are also available.)

SAIGON TOKYO ASIAN FUSION
700 S. Buckley Road, Units E and F
303.671.8888
saigontokyo.net
Lunch, Dinner
$$
North Central
Can’t decide between sushi, pho, and lo mein? Head to Saigon Tokyo’s lantern-lit space, where you’ll find a range of Asian cuisines and dishes, including dozens of sushi rolls and available all-day bento boxes.

YONGGUNG
2040 S. Havana St.
720.748.3003
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southwest
A fusion of Korean and Chinese cuisines, Yonggung is known for its noodles—specifically ja jang myeon (black bean sauce noodles), and jjam bong (spicy seafood noodle soup). But you’ll also find plenty of rice and sweet and sour dishes.
Take your pick between the American-style Chinese food menu and the “real” Chinese cuisine options, like the array of pork dumplings, braised meat dishes, and spicy noodles. 

It’s helpful to know what you’re craving when you place an order at takeout-only China Chef—to say the menu is broad is an understatement. There are categories devoted to sweet-and-sour dishes, egg foo young, lo mein, and fried rice... and that’s before you even get to the proteins and veggies.

Located in a strip mall, Formosa Garden is mostly known for its Szechuan eats, but you’ll find some Thai influences too. The orange chicken is a go-to, as is the Cantonese wonton soup, which crowds the bowl with barbecue pork, shrimp, chicken, vegetables, and noodles.

Whether you order your dumplings steamed, boiled, or pan-fried, you can be sure they were handmade that very morning. Round out your meal with buns and a hot rice or noodle dish. Vegetarian and vegan options are available.

This is the spot for those seeking bona fide, tasty Chinese barbecue. Expect an array of meats—the roast duck is a hands-down favorite—as well as rice and noodle dishes.

Chinese hot pot as an Asian spin on fondue: You add raw meats, seafood, vegetables, noodles, and more into a pot of flavored broth to cook at your table. Old Town offers an all-you-can-eat, build-your-own hot pot experience with nearly two dozen protein options.

Find quintessential Chinese dishes at this takeout-only eatery, from orange chicken to chow mein to Szechuan beef.
HOW TO: MAKE CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA

A consistent favorite on Indian menus, chicken tikka masala is relatively easy to cook in a home kitchen (and it tastes delicious even without using a tandoor, or traditional clay oven). All you need is:

- Chicken breasts or thighs
- Garlic
- Ginger
- Spices: turmeric, garam masala, coriander, cumin, cardamom, red chili flakes, salt
- Coconut milk, heavy
- Cream, or Greek yogurt
- Ghee or vegetable oil
- Onion
- Tomato paste
- Can of whole, peeled tomatoes
- Rice (for serving)

You can pick up many of these ingredients at Arash International Market or World Food Bazaar. Then, you marinate the chicken; cook it in a pot with the onion, tomatoes, and more spices; and let the sauce simmer and thicken. Scoop it over rice, and it’s time to eat.

Not in a cooking mood? Turn to page 24 to find a list of Aurora’s independent Indian restaurants.

TEN SECONDS YUNNAN RICE NOODLES
2000 S. Havana St.
720.583.2839
tensecondsyunnanrice.noodles.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southwest
Known as crossing-the-bridge noodles thanks to an ancient tale, this traditional dish originated in the Yunnan province of China. You’ll find about a dozen varieties at this comfortable spot, as well as appetizers, Japanese ramen, and milk tea.

VOLCANO TEA HOUSE
2781 S. Parker Road
720.536.5656
onemorenoodle.com
Lunch, Dinner
$
Southwest
Tea—specifically, milk tea—is the specialty at this pastel-hued cafe. Refreshments come in a wide variety of creative flavors, but the house milk tea is a reliable order, especially for newbies. To eat, choose a deep-fried appetizer and one of the hand-pulled noodle soups or entrees.

TSAI SHEN GARDEN
15200 E. Sixth Ave., Unit 2-E
303.366.8818
Lunch, Dinner
$
Northeast
Tsai Shen Garden is the kind of affordable neighborhood eatery that families love to frequent. A complimentary pot of tea comes with every meal, whether you’re enjoying beef and broccoli, lo mein, or the Happy Family combination stir-fry.

HOW TO: MAKE CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA

You can pick up many of these ingredients at Arash International Market or World Food Bazaar. Then, you marinate the chicken; cook it in a pot with the onion, tomatoes, and more spices; and let the sauce simmer and thicken. Scoop it over rice, and it’s time to eat.

Not in a cooking mood? Turn to page 24 to find a list of Aurora’s independent Indian restaurants.
CHUTNEY INDIAN CUISINE RESTAURANT
2740 S. Havana St., Unit K
303.997.6202
chutneyindiancuisine.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southwest
All your favorite Indian dishes are on the menu here—curry, tikka masala, saag, vindaloo, the list goes on. You’ll also find a compelling selection of vegetarian options and plenty of appetizers to share.

MASALAA 🍗
3140 S. Parker Road,
Unit 7 and 8
303.755.6272
masalaausa.com
Lunch, Dinner
$
Southwest
Expand your Indian cuisine repertoire at this all-vegetarian restaurant where lentils, potatoes, and flavorful spices reign. The dosas—pliable-but-crispy crépes made from rice and lentils—are abundant, and you’re likely to find a new-to-you dish to enjoy on every visit.

MONSOON CUISINE OF INDIA
24107 E. Commons Ave.
303.627.5444
monsoonsouthlands.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southeast / Southlands
At this contemporary Indian eatery, tradition reigns, meaning you can order tandoor-fired meats and traditional curry or vindaloo. But you’ll also find inventive updates, like the baked-to-order bullet naan, which arrives topped with diced serrano peppers. Located at Southlands

SMOKY HILL INDIAN CUISINE
22942 E. Smoky Hill Road
303.627.9679
smokyhillindian.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southeast
Smoky Hill specializes in familiar Northern Indian dishes, such as chicken tikka masala, lamb vindaloo, and curries. You’ll also find a robust menu of vegan options.

TAZ INDIAN RESTAURANT
10731 E. Alameda Ave., Unit G
303.366.3011
tazindianrestaurant.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
North Central
Fresh and complex flavors abound at this cozy eatery, which focuses on north Indian dishes like curries, masalas, and the ever-popular tandoors. Don’t miss out on the homemade momo (Nepali-style dumplings filled with vegetables or chicken).

STAR OF INDIA RESTAURANT
3102 S. Parker Road, Unit A-10
303.755.1921
starofindiadenver.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southwest
Family owned for more than two decades, this restaurant concentrates on Northern Indian cuisine. The most popular dishes are the masalas and kormas—with a side of naan, of course. Vegetarians should try the eggplant or spinach entrees. There’s also a full bar.
Mochi is kind of indescribable: It’s chewy; it’s sticky; it’s creamy. But what actually is it? Mochi are small, round rice cakes that are made by pounding, molding, and then baking steamed, short-grain sticky rice. They are available in a wide variety of appealing colors and flavors (think: green tea, chocolate, strawberry). The Japanese dish is traditionally a special occasion treat consumed around the new year, but it’s become a year-round offering here in the States where you’ll often find it served as mochi ice cream.

For a list of Aurora’s independent Japanese restaurants, turn to page 27.
ADVENTUROUS eaters will find plenty to enjoy at Hana, from the fire cracker appetizer (a deep-fried jalapeño stuffed with cream cheese and spicy crab meat) to the array of hand rolls to the salmon skin tempura. But the vast menu offers something for everyone, including bento boxes for lunch. On the dessert list: green tea cheesecake.

Sakura Hibachi & Sushi
14045 E. Evans Ave.
303.750.7979
sakuracolorado.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$$
Southwest

At this spacious, contemporary Japanese steak house, choose between the hibachi tables or regular dining room, which has an extensive menu of sushi, ramen, tempura, and noodle dishes. Don’t overlook the lineup of sakes.

Sushi Katsu
2222 S. Havana St., Unit H
303.368.8778
sushikatsudenver.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$ Southwest

Sushi Katsu may be an all-you-can-eat restaurant with 40-plus sushi rolls on the menu, but it’s definitely not a buffet. Diners can also enjoy plenty of non-sushi treats, such as pan-fried gyoza, octopus salad, chicken teriyaki, and yaki soba.

Sushi-Rama
13650 E. Colfax Ave.
303.364.1990
sushirama.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest

Enjoy traditional sushi rolls served via a fun, conveyer belt experience. There’s also a small menu of appetizers (like edamame and gyoza) and ramen, plus a full bar.

BB.Q Chicken
Village on the Park
2495 S. Havana St., Unit #H
Aurora, CO 80014
720.882.6736
bbqchickeneats.com/
villageonthepark
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Central North

BB.Q means more than a style of cooking at this newly opened Korean fried chicken hot spot, but “best of the best quality.” This eatery with a modern feel and garage doors that can open onto an outdoor patio spends two days marinating, battering, breading and frying its tasty chicken morsels. And there’s a flavor for everyone, from honey garlic and Gangjeong to galbi and Gangnam style.

Woo Ri Korean Restaurant
2648 S. Parker Road, Unit 9
303.974.5425
Lunch, Dinner
$$ Southwest

A mom-and-pop spot known for its tofu soup, bibimbap, and bulgogi (marinated and grilled beef or pork).
SEOUL KOREAN BBQ & HOT POT
2080 S. Havana St.
303.632.7576
seoulkoreanbbq.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southwest
It may say "BBQ" on the sign, but Seoul diners know that really means grilling—not smoking—your choice of meat or seafood over a cooker set into the table. Your other cook-it-yourself option is the hot pot: meat and veggies simmered in a pot of bubbling broth. Sushi and a variety of other entrees are also available.

SILLA KOREAN BARBECUE
3005 S. Peoria St.
303.338.5070
sillabbq.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southwest
Silla specializes in traditional Korean cuisine, including the famous tabletop BBQ (try the marinated short ribs, known as galbi), but many return for the restaurant’s other regional specialties: hearty and varied soups, pan-fried mackerel, buckwheat noodles, and more.

FRIED CHICKEN

ANGRY CHICKEN
1930 S. Havana St., Unit 13
303.353.2680
angrychickenco.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
Satisfy your Korean fried chicken craving here. Choose from an array of sauces; sweet and spicy, spicy soy, and honey garlic are the most popular. Two soups—dduk bokki, a rice cake-based dish, and army stew, made with Spam and sausage—are cooked hot pot-style at the table.

KOREAN FRIED CHICKEN | How’s it different from American Southern fried chicken?

Unlike the thickly battered American version, authentic KFC (that’s Korean fried chicken) isn’t brined, has a very thin crust, and is double-fried for extra crispiness. Seasoning happens afterward, sometimes with a sweet garlic-soy glaze or a spicier pepper sauce. Pair your order with pickled radishes and beer or soju. Want to make your own KFC? Head to Midopa Market or Pacific Ocean Marketplace to gather all the necessary ingredients.

Turn to page 29 to find a list of Aurora’s independent Korean restaurants and page 63 for area markets.
Southwest
The yellow coconut curry is what brings most diners in the door. But they stick around for create-your-own spring rolls, warm bowls of pho, Vietnamese iced coffee, and a surprising number of pan-Asian dishes.

THAI
BUA TASTY THAI
950 S. Abilene St.
720.262.9923
buathai.mlpo.org
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northeast
This family-owned restaurant invites you in with colorful decor and tableware imported straight from Thailand. You’ll taste generations-old recipes throughout the extensive menu of savory soups, customer-favorite drunken noodles, curries, and more.

CHERRY THAI CAFE
13710 E. Quincy Ave.
303.693.0825
cherrythaicafeaurora.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
South Central
A spacious eatery with a standard lineup of curries, rice noodles, larb and papaya salads, and stir-fries. Save room: Mango sticky rice is on the dessert menu.

VIETNAMESE
GOLDEN SAIGON VIETNAMESE GRILL
2648 S. Parker Road, Unit 2
303.671.7100
goldensaiigon.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
North Central
Local family-run chain of sit-down soup shops serves the signature pho & Vietnamese specials. "Every dish achieves that elusive, balance of sweet, salty, and sour — even Boba drinks."

PHO
MR. PHO
2719 S. Parker Road
303.750.3007
mrphoco.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
This Vietnamese noodle house serves the ingredient two ways: in pho, a soup, and in noodle bowls. The familiar menu also lists steamed rice plates, Vietnamese egg rolls, boba, and Vietnamese iced coffee.

PHO 90 SOUTHLANDS
23955 E. Plaza Ave., Unit G-115 & 117
303.627.5718
pho90southlands.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southeast
This Vietnamese eatery features pho and plenty of meats accompanied by noodle options like vermicelli, udon and lo mein, plus a variety of vegetarian choices. Located at Southlands.

PHO 99
1080 S Havana St
303.344.0752
pho99aurora.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
North Central
Local family-run chain of sit-down soup shops serving the signature pho & Vietnamese specials. "Every dish achieves that elusive, balance of sweet, salty, and sour — even Boba drinks."

TOP PHO
11697 E Colfax Ave
303.341.0566
topphoaurora.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest
Top Pho is known for its homestyle pho soup, fresh spring rolls and various noodle bowls. The restaurant also offers an extensive menu of boba shakes, including coconut, mango, coffee and matcha tea.
CHOOK CHARCOAL CHICKEN
2501 Dallas St.
303.282.8399
chookchicken.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest/Stanley Marketplace
The selection is straightforward here: Chook focuses on Australian-style, charcoal-grilled rotisserie chicken. Pair the meat with your choice of fresh sides, or opt for it in a salad or sandwich. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

DRY DOCK BREWING CO.
North Dock: 2801 Tower Road
South Dock: 15120 E. Hampden Ave.
303.400.5606
drydockbrewing.com
Daily
Northeast and South Central
$$
Northeast/Stanley Marketplace
Explore this award-winning brewery’s lively taprooms at both locations, plus factory tours and a disc golf course at the North Dock.

FACTORY FASHION CHAMPAGNE BAR
2501 Dallas St.
720.327.2000
factoryfivefive.com
Thursday–Sunday
$$
Northwest/Stanley Marketplace
This incubator for designers pulls double-duty as a classy champagne bar, with an extensive menu of champagnes and cocktails. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

HAYKIN FAMILY CIDER
12001 E. 33rd Ave., Unit D
720.242.7292
haykinfamilycider.com
Thursday–Sunday
$$
Northwest
This award-winning small batch cidery features a different kind of bubbly, with a sparkling wine-like cider in a variety of sweetness levels. Located near Stanley Marketplace.

JADE MOUNTAIN BREWING COMPANY
4233 S. Buckley Road
720.289.3612
jademountain.beer
Wednesday–Sunday
North Central
$$
Experience a blend of beer and culture at this brewery serving both craft ales and tea.

JUST BILLS TAVERN
15355 E. Colfax Ave., Unit E-3
303.344.2023
Daily
North Central
At this neighborhood watering hole, the bartenders greet regulars by name. Play a game of darts or virtual bowling.

LADY JUSTICE BREWING COMPANY
9735 E. Colfax Ave.
303.856.3809
ladyjusticebrewing.com
Tuesday–Sunday
Northeast
$$
Northwest
This brewery dedicates time, space and funds to nonprofits and community partners that support women and girls in Colorado.

A BIT TWISTED BREWPUB AND BBQ
3095 S. Peoria St.
720.350.4905
twistedbrewpub.com
Dinner
Southwest
$$
If you love Central Texas-style barbecue and Colorado craft brews, this is your place.

BENT BARLEY BREWING COMPANY
6200 S. Main St., #110
303.627.5799
bentbarley.com
Daily
Southwest
$$
After a day of shopping, sip on a refreshing brew or a nonalcoholic beverage at this award-winning brewery with patio. Located at Southlands.

G’Ducks Bar
15420 E. Hampden Ave.
303.766.5052
Daily
North Central
$$
Experience a blend of beer and culture at this brewery serving both craft ales and tea.

FACTORY FASHION CHAMPAGNE BAR
2501 Dallas St.
720.327.2000
factoryfivefive.com
Thursday–Sunday
$$
Northwest/Stanley Marketplace
This incubator for designers pulls double-duty as a classy champagne bar, with an extensive menu of champagnes and cocktails. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

HAYKIN FAMILY CIDER
12001 E. 33rd Ave., Unit D
720.242.7292
haykinfamilycider.com
Thursday–Sunday
$$
Northwest
This award-winning small batch cidery features a different kind of bubbly, with a sparkling wine-like cider in a variety of sweetness levels. Located near Stanley Marketplace.

JADE MOUNTAIN BREWING COMPANY
4233 S. Buckley Road
720.289.3612
jademountain.beer
Wednesday–Sunday
South Central
$$
Experience a blend of beer and culture at this brewery serving both craft ales and tea.

JUST BILLS TAVERN
15355 E. Colfax Ave., Unit E-3
303.344.2023
Daily
North Central
At this neighborhood watering hole, the bartenders greet regulars by name. Play a game of darts or virtual bowling.

LADY JUSTICE BREWING COMPANY
9735 E. Colfax Ave.
303.856.3809
ladyjusticebrewing.com
Tuesday–Sunday
Northwest
$$
Northwest
This brewery dedicates time, space and funds to nonprofits and community partners that support women and girls in Colorado.

A BIT TWISTED BREWPUB AND BBQ
3095 S. Peoria St.
720.350.4905
twistedbrewpub.com
Dinner
Southwest
$$
If you love Central Texas-style barbecue and Colorado craft brews, this is your place.

BENT BARLEY BREWING COMPANY
6200 S. Main St., #110
303.627.5799
bentbarley.com
Daily
Southwest
$$
After a day of shopping, sip on a refreshing brew or a nonalcoholic beverage at this award-winning brewery with patio. Located at Southlands.
LAUNCH PAD BREWERY
884 S. Buckley Road
303.745.4599
launchpadbrewery.com
Daily
Northeast
$
This funky microbrewery specializes in offbeat craft beers served in a rocket-themed taproom.

THE SAND CREEK LOUNGE
16893 E. Iliff Ave.
303.337.4984
sandcreeklounge.com
Daily
South Central
Have you been to the “world’s greatest saloon” yet? This long-standing Aurora dive bar is all about catching up over a couple of drinks.

SIX CAPITAL BREWING
16701 E. Iliff Ave.
720.598.6816
sixcapitalbrewing.com
Lunch, Dinner
South Central
$
Colorado craft beer and Texas barbecue come together under one roof, with a scratch kitchen, wine and cocktails also.

SKY BAR
2501 Dallas St.
TK
skybarstanley.com
Wednesday–Sunday
$
Northwest/Stanley Marketplace
Inspired by the golden age of travel, your visit to Sky Bar begins in the lobby, where you’ll receive a boarding pass to ride the elevator up to the luxe, mid-mod airport lounge-themed bar. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

STAMPEDE
2430 S. Havana St.
303.696.7686
stampededclub.net
Southwest
Work up a sweat line-dancing to hits on the dance floor at Aurora’s signature country music bar. Lessons are offered on Wednesday evenings if your two-step needs some work.

STEEL TIPS BAR
15162 E. Hampden Ave.
303.699.2222
steeltipsbar.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
Southwest
A no-frills coffee shop with something for everyone: espresso drinks, blended iced coffees, boba, and slushies, plus a selection of pastries and Korean snacks like rice cakes.

URSULA BREWERY
2101 N. Ursula St.
720.324.8529
ursulabrewery.com
Monday–Saturday
Northeast
$
This award-winning brewery features brews like Boho Vibes Czech pilsner or The Great Hop Dusting IPA. Located on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

WHISPERS ON HAVANA
1535 S. Havana St., Unit A
720.949.1760
whispersnhavana.com
Daily
Southwest
Fun is the theme at Whispers, a retro bar where karaoke takes over the stage every night and happy hour runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

BEANTREE COFFEE
12101 E. Iliff Ave.
303.396.6178
 daily
Southwest
36 | BARS, BREWERIES & TASTING ROOMS

CHURRERIA DE MADRID
2501 Dallas St.
720.637.7399
churreriademadrid.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$ Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
Churreria de Madrid is a lively restaurant that brings memories and Spanish cuisine to Aurora with their churros, traditional thick drinking chocolate and patatas bravas (Spanish potatoes) with a choice of their five unique sauces.

COFFEE STORY
2222 S. Havana St., Unit A-1
720.609.2971
coffeestoryco.com
Daily
Southwest
This spacious coffee shop serves a robust menu of coffee and other caffeinated beverages, smoothies, lemonades, and shaved ice. Pair yours with a sweet treat: The venue is known for its “croffles”—a combination of croissants and waffles, available in six flavors.

ENDLESS GRIND COFFEE
17070 E. Quincy Ave.
303.284.5359
endlessgrindcoffee.com
Breakfast, Lunch
Northeast
This cozy, Ethiopian-owned coffee shop micro-roasts its beans—sourced from around the world—on-site and serves only fair-trade and organic coffee. A small menu of pastries and sandwiches is also available.
HERITAGE CAFE
22691 E. Aurora Parkway, Unit 8-9
720.726.4549
heritagecafe-hc.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$Southeast
A scratch-made meal awaits at this welcoming eatery where classic dishes get a deluxe twist, like chicken and waffles topped with jalapeño gravy or steak and eggs crafted with Kobe beef. (Even lunch is served with hash brown bites.) You won’t find a bar here, but you will find alcohol-free, CBD mimosas.

JUBILEE ROASTING CO.
1452 Kenton St.
jubileeroastingco.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$Northwest
This Colorado-born craft coffee roastery is known for thoughtfully sourcing its beans and making a damn good cup of joe. The indoor-outdoor cafe is an ideal spot to unwind with a breakfast burrito or fresh pastry from local bakery Hearth. Also check out the art studio next door.

LOGAN HOUSE COFFEE CO.
2501 Dallas St.
720.515.7752
loganhousecoffee.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
Logan House’s rustic-chic cafe is a comfy place to sip a cappuccino or pour-over made from house-roasted beans and nibble on house-made goodies, like coffee cake and muffins. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

MILLY’S COMMUNITY CAFE
15600 E. Alameda Parkway
720.830.5166
millyscommunitycafe.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$North Central
A home-away-from-home for your morning (or afternoon) caffeine needs. Milly’s serves coffee and tea drink favorites, plus breakfast burritos, biscuit sandwiches, soups, pastries, and a tempting array of house-made, beautifully decorated cookies.

MR. DONUTS
1704 S. Chambers Road
303.745.0255
Breakfast, Lunch
$Southwest
Who even knew there were this many types of doughnuts? Cake doughnuts, filled, fritters, cronuts...the list goes on. But that’s not all that’s coming out of the ovens at this small eatery: Texas-style sausage kolaches are a breakfast must.

NEW DAY CAFE
5001 S. Parker Road, Unit 115
720.630.8285
newdaycafeaurora.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$South Central
Consider this a quintessential Colorado breakfast/lunch spot: You’ve got your American classics—omelets, pancakes, sandwiches—mixed with Mexican specialties like the customer favorite breakfast burrito smothered in green chile. Take note: There’s no alcohol available.

PEORIA NUTRITION
3113 Peoria St., Unit D
720.422.9839
peorianutrition.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$North Central
Energize your day with flavored coffees, loaded teas, nutritious, low-carb shakes, and snacks such as waffles and protein bars.

SWEET GOLD JUICE CO.
2501 Dallas St.
720.360.9291
sweetgoldjuiceco.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
Load up on nutrients with organic, cold-pressed juices and smoothies that really do taste good—and are good for the environment, too, thanks to recyclable glass bottles. A small food menu (think: overnight oats and chia pudding) is also available.

WAKE & TAKE COFFEE SHOP
2337 S. Blackhawk St.
720.999.5448
wakeandtake.coffee
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$Southwest
This local cafe offers a global selection of coffees and teas, as well as pastries, Italian cakes, and sandwiches. You’ll also find the unexpected: espresso juice—orange juice with a double shot of espresso—and a Snickers-flavored latte.
**Caribbean**

**CUBA BAKERY AND CAFÉ**  
15028 E. Mississippi Ave.  
303.752.2822  
cubabakeryandcafe.com  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
$$
Southwest  
This casual eatery serves up Caribbean eats, with many dishes hailing from Cuba, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico. The guava-and-cream-cheese pastry is a must for sweet teeth. Looking for a full meal? Try one of the meat plates paired with congri, a traditional Cuban rice. And a cup of Cuban coffee, of course.

**PUPUSAS HOUSE**  
2284 S. Chambers Road  
303.368.4578  
orderpupusashouse.com  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
$$
South Central  
Taste the national dish of El Salvador: pupusas. The thick, fried tortillas are stuffed with beans, cheese, and/or meat. This no-frills eatery also serves Salvadoran egg breakfasts, Mexican specialties, stuffed potatoes, soups, and aguas frescas.

**PUPUSAS LA SALVADOREÑA**  
304 Havana St.  
720.361.2980  
orderpupusaslasalvadorena.com  
Lunch, Dinner  
$$
North Central  
Choose from 13 fillings in your house-made pupusa—or travel beyond the Salvadoran classic and enjoy Argentinian empanadas, Honduran baleada (a stuffed flour tortilla), and Mexican-style tacos.
Pupusas have a long history in their homeland of El Salvador: Historians believe they were first made by the Indigenous Pipil tribe more than 2,000 years ago. So what is this enduring dish? Thick corn tortillas stuffed with an array of fillings (meat, beans, and/or cheese) and then cooked on a grill called a comal. (In Venezuela, you’ll find a similar version known as arepas.)

You can craft the pouches at home too; swing by Mi Pueblo Market or El Jakalito Market to pick up the short list of necessary ingredients.

For a list of Aurora’s independent Central American restaurants, go to page 41.
**European German**

**HELGA’S GERMAN RESTAURANT & DELI**
14197 E. Exposition Ave.
303.344.5488
helgasdeli.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
North Central
German comfort fare is on the menu: schnitzel (pork, chicken, or veal), rouladen, beef sauerbraten, spätzle, apple strudel... we could go on. Stop by on the last Friday of the month for live music and polka. Before you leave, swing by the deli for meats, cheeses, and German candies.

**MA MA OLIVIA’S PIZZERIA**
477 Sable Blvd.
303.366.1605
mamaoliviaspizza.com
Lunch, Dinner
$
North Central
Scratch-made doughs form the base of these pizzas, but it’s the sauce selection that really stands out: barbecue, Buffalo, Alfredo, and picante, among them. Calzones, wings, burgers, and sandwiches round out the menu.

**PIZZERIAS**

**COLORADOUGH PIZZA**
15430 E. Smoky Hill Road
303.997.5424
coloradoughpizza.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
South Central
If you couldn’t tell by the name, this pizzeria is all about staying local, starting with the house-made dough. The Garden of the Gods pizza even features a mix of handpicked-in-Colorado vegetables. You can also build your own pie or throw in a side of wings or chocolate-dipped cannoli.

**MAMA ALVINO’S PIZZERIA**
15179 E. Colfax Ave.
303.364.1894
mamaalvinos.com
Lunch, Dinner
$
Northeast
This is true Italian pizza—not too thin, not too thick. But, really, you’re here for the calzones (described as “a meal in itself”). Pick from the seven ready-made combinations or build your own.

**POMODORO PIZZA PASTA**
576 Dayton St.
303.360.5200
pomodoropizzapastallc.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
North Central
It’s all about straightforward New York–style pizzas and traditional Italian pasta here... and calzones, sandwiches, wings, and sweet desserts, too.

**ITALIAN**

**BETTOLA BISTRO**
10253 E. Iliff Ave.
303.750.1580
bettolabistro.com
Dinner
$$$$
Southwest
Reservations are required for this small northern Italian eatery where everything is scratch-made. The menu changes regularly, but if the blistered Brussels sprouts, scallops, or rigatoni arrabiata are available, order them.
MASSINO’S PIZZA AND PASTA
1250 S. Buckley Road, Unit A
303.671.0652
massinospizza.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northeast
The specialty at this family-owned eatery is New York-style, thin-crust pizza. Building your own pie? Start by choosing your sauce base between traditional, barbecue, garlic, Alfredo, or spicy. Strombolis, calzones, pastas, subs, and salads round out the menu.

MONDO’S PIZZA PASTA
3751 Tower Road, Unit G
303.375.7834
mondospizzaco.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northeast
Mondo’s artisan, New York–style pizzas are built with house-made dough and cheese shredded right in the kitchen. Fill up on calzones, pastas (the baked ziti is a favorite), wings, and salads. Take advantage of the lunch special: a slice of pizza, side salad, and drink for under $10.

WOOD PADDLE PIZZA & TAP
17060 E. Quincy Ave.
720.398.8118
woodpaddlepizza.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southeast
You can choose your toppings, but you can’t choose your pie size: All the pizzas here are 12-inch, Neapolitan-style with hand-stretched dough. Choose from the recommended combos (including a weekly special) or build your own. Pair your pick with a pint from the local tap list.

BABA & POP’S PIEROGI KITCHEN & BAR
9945 E. Colfax Ave.
720.476.7183
babaandpops.com
Brunch, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest
The pierogis are made the traditional way—by hand, just like Baba and Pop (the owner’s great-grandparents) did—but some of the toppings are anything but, with fillings like chile rellenos and pulled pork. Walk to the back of the sun-filled eatery to watch the dumplings being made.

MASHA & THE BEAR RUSSIAN CAFE
12101 E. Iliff Ave.
720.209.4748
mashabearcafe.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest
Get a taste of Russia with the from-scratch dishes (yes, even the dumpling dough is made in-house) at Masha’s. Top bites include the borscht and solyanka (beef-based soups), potato dumplings, and beef stroganoff.
Health Food

COCO LOCO JUICE & EATS
2353 S. Havana St., Unit D14
303.284.2959
cocolococolorado.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$ Southwest
At this family-owned health food restaurant, fill up on raw juices, smoothies (there are more than three dozen options!), wraps, and salads. Vegans and vegetarians will find plenty to enjoy here.

BÁNH AND BUTTER BAKERY CAFÉ
9935 E. Colfax Ave.
720.513.9313
bahnandbutter.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$$ Northwest
Delectable treats await at this Asian-French-inspired bakery featuring breads, sweet and savory pastries and sandwiches.

CODY’S CAFE AND BAR
10203 E. Iliff Ave.
303.751.1288
codysdenver.com
Dinner
$$$ Southwest
Southern Italian and Asian cuisine share space on Cody’s concise menu. That means you can enjoy both a (house-made) lemongrass sausage penne and a tempura-fried crab bowl. There’s a full bar, too, with a focus on wine.

MILE HIGH PIZZA & GRILL
1010 S. Peoria St.
303.343.0022
milehighpizzaandgrill.com
Lunch, Dinner
$ North Central
Don’t be fooled by the name: Mile High doesn’t only serve pizza. Here, you’ll also find chicken wings, salads, pastas, Mexican dishes, and a whole lot more. And many of the pies feature creative toppings, from shrimp scampi to steak.

WINE EXPERIENCE CAFÉ & WORLD CELLAR
6240 S. Main St., Unit L115
303.690.1025
wineexperiencecafe.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$$ Southeast / Southlands
A contemporary, upscale cafe serving international dishes—steak frites, duck, lobster ravioli—that beautifully complement an impressive wine and spirits menu. Head next door to the World Cellar to buy a bottle before you head home.

International Fusion
**Mediterranean**

SAJ FRESH GRILL
2300 S. Parker Road
720.612.7422
sajfresh.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$

Southwest
Build a plate or a wrap (made with pita or saj, a flatbread) with your choice of protein—chicken, beef, gyro meat, or falafel—fillings/sides, and sauces.

**Drink Like a Local**

Make your meal even more authentic by pairing it with a local cocktail or spirit. Here’s what to ask for depending on what type of cuisine you’re enjoying:

If you’re eating **Brazilian**, order a Caipirinha
If you’re eating **Peruvian**, order a pisco sour
If you’re eating **Mexican**, order tequila
If you’re eating **Korean**, order soju
If you’re eating **Cuban**, order a mojito
If you’re eating **Greek**, order ouzo
If you’re eating **Ethiopian**, order tej
If you’re eating **Italian**, order grappa
GREEK

THE ATHENIAN RESTAURANT
15350 E. Iliff Ave.
720.449.0224
theathenianrestaurant.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 $$$
South Central
The pitas at this cozy bistro are flown in from Greece, and the menu is filled with classic dishes, from spanakopita to gyros to souvlaki. (At breakfast, though, you’ll find an array of Colorado favorites.) Don’t be surprised if you hear someone shout “opa!” at the end of their meal.

MOROCCAN

CAFE PAPRIKA
13160 E. Mississippi Ave.
303.755.4150
Lunch, Dinner
 $$
Southwest
Cafe Paprika has dished up classic Moroccan specialties—lamb shanks, tagines, kebabs, couscous, and more—since 1993. The saffron-infused chicken bastilla (a savory meat pie) is a longstanding favorite.

MEXICAN

BOTANAS LOKAS
2271 S. Peoria St.
720.708.5991
botanaslokas4u.com
Lunch, Dinner
 $
Southwest
Botanas Lokas translates to “crazy snacks,” and this spot delivers on its name with ice creams, chocolate-dipped bananas, shakes, and more. Beyond sweet treats, you’ll find a menu of street tacos, smothered burritos, and tortas.

CASA GUTIÉRREZ
12131 E. Iliff Ave., Unit D
303.755.1822
casagutierrezaurora.com
Lunch, Dinner
 $$$
Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
Even among the city’s many Mexican food options, Casa Gutiérrez stands out with its family recipes and lively atmosphere. Everything from the chorizo to the chile verde to the vegetarian salpicon tostada is homemade. So is the flan, which the owners claim is the best in town.

COMIDA
2501 Dallas St.
303.484.1632
eatcomida.com
Lunch, Dinner
 $$
Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
Comida offers an à la carte dining experience of slow-cooked Mexican street food—aka, a lineup of scratch-made tacos, burritos, enchiladas, and more. Wash your pick down with a creative margarita. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

EL CAMARON LOCO
513 Havana St.
303.326.6644
camaronlococolorado.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 $$
North Central
Mexican seafood is on the menu at this nautical-themed eatery, where ceviche, tacos, enchiladas, and the always popular camarones fiesta (a trio of shrimp) pair perfectly with homemade tortillas and margaritas. Breakfast burritos are now available.
EL CHUBBY’S FRESH MEXICAN RESTAURANT
1191 S. Abilene St.
303.755.1414
elchubbys.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
Southwest
Fresh-made Mexican eats for every meal? Yes, please. El Chubby’s signature dish is the carne asada fries, but you can’t go wrong with a breakfast burrito, grilled-to-order chicken tacos, or sopapillas.

GUADALAJARA FAMILY MEXICAN RESTAURANT
1001 S. Abilen St.
303.696.0903
guadalajaramexfood.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
North Central
This brighty decorated cantina serves an expansive menu of south-of-the-border favorites. One unique offering: the soft chiles rellenos (which are still stuffed with cheese).

JABANERO’S MEXICAN GRILL
5584 S. Parker Road
303.400.0235
Breakfast, Lunch
$
South Central
It’s all about the breakfast burritos at Jabanero’s—there are at least a dozen varieties on the menu. Tacos, enchiladas, chiles rellenos, and many more beloved Mexican dishes round out the offerings. There are also kid-sized combo plates.

LA COSTA AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD
15037 E. Colfax Ave., Unit L
303.341.1685
lacostamexicanfood.com
Breakfast, Lunch
$
Northeast
Menudo—a “Mexican breakfast soup”—is a house specialty at this small eatery, but you’ll find all of your south-of-the-border must-haves, from breakfast burritos and chilaquiles to shrimp tostadas and flautas.

LA COSTERA GRILL CHICKEN
9755 E. Montview Blvd.
303.341.7155
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
Northwest
There’s steak, chorizo, and beans on the menu here, too, but chicken is the highlight. Build a meal with a quarter-, half-, or whole chicken, or enjoy the grilled meat stuffed in tacos, tortas, burritos, or quesadillas at this small eatery.

LA CUEVA
9742 E. Colfax Ave.
lacuevacolfax.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest
The Nuñez family has satisfied the bellies of more than one generation of diners: They’ve been sharing their homestyle Mexican recipes since 1974. Good news: You’ll find both red and green chile here.

DRINK UP: MANGONADA

Fend off the summer heat with this ubiquitous Mexican drink. The frozen beverage is made from a combination of mango sorbet, chopped mango, or mango puree blended with Tajín (a chile-lime seasoning), chamoy (a sour, fermented fruit spiked with chiles, sugar, and salt), and lime. For the grown-ups: Mix in a bit of tequila or rum.

Discover Aurora’s Mexican eateries on page 53 or find the ingredients to blend your own mangonada at El Jakalito Market.
Discover the foods of Sinaloa, a coastal state in Mexico. “Machaca” is dried, shredded beef, and you’ll find it here paired with scrambled eggs, chilis, and other traditional ingredients at any time of day. La Machaca also serves tacos, burritos, tortas, and even milk shakes.

**LA MACHACA DE MI AMA**
11809 E. Colfax Ave.
303.366.1913
lamachacademiama.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest

**PIRAMIDES MEXICAN RESTAURANT**
1911 S. Havana St.
303.752.0555
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest


**LAS FAJITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT**
2680 S. Havana St.,
303.755.3366
7450 S. Gartrell Road, Unit B-7
303.766.3016
lasfajitascolorado.net
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest / Southeast

Whether you choose steak, pork, chicken, shrimp, or veggies, the namesake dish arrives on a properly sizzling platter. (There’s even a fajitas–inspired omelet for early risers.) Of course, there are plenty of other mouth-watering items on the extensive menu, plus an array of margaritas and cervezas.

**POLLO PICANTE**
10498 E. Colfax Ave.
303.364.8312
Lunch, Dinner
$
Northwest

It’s all about the bird here: Pollo picante translates to “spicy chicken.” Order the meat in tacos, quesadillas, or nachos. Or go with the customer-favorite grilled chicken plate paired with rice, beans, and tortillas.

**REAL DE MINAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT**
11101 E. Colfax Ave.
303.367.1904
14035 E. Evans Ave.
303.745.3098
15795 E. Briarwood Circle
303.766.2207
realdeminarestaurants.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
Northwest / Southwest / South Central

You won’t go hungry (or thirsty) at this colorful Mexican eatery, with three Aurora locations. The parrillada (barbecue) platters—a mixture of grilled meats or seafood—are popular among groups as they serve two to four people, but the menu is chock-full of all of your south-of-the-border favorites, margaritas included.

**SANTIAGO’S MEXICAN RESTAURANT**
10400 E. Sixth Ave.
303.343.7040
eatatsantiagos.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
North Central

Locals know this Centennial State chain as the place to go for affordable breakfast burritos; the meat (ham, sausage, bacon, chorizo) changes depending on the day of the week. But you’ll also find a hearty lineup of tacos, enchiladas, smothered burritos, and even stuffed sopapillas. Drive-thru available.

**SEÑOR RIC’S MEXICAN RESTAURANT**
13200 E. Mississippi Ave.
303.750.9000
senorrics.net
Lunch, Dinner
$$
Southwest

The cerveza-friendly favorite at Señor Ric’s—an Aurora institution since 1986—is the “pollo magnifico,” a chimichanga filled with spicy chicken and smothered with cheese. The separate, gluten-free roster features fajitas, flautas, and flan for dessert.

**SEÑOR CHICKEN MEXICAN ROTISSERIE**
6780 S. Liverpool St.
303.955.5529
senorchickenmexicanrotisserie.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
Southwest

This fast food restaurant’s menu is chock full of quintessential Mexican bites, which you can order on their own or on combination plates. Always get the carne asada fries. Drive-thru available.
A GLOBAL GUIDE TO FLATBREADS

Bread is a love language in, well, any language. Here are some common types you’ll find around the world—or at restaurants right here in Aurora:

**Injera/Ethiopia**: A spongy, sour flatbread that’s traditionally made from teff flour. (Tip: Use it to scoop up your meat or veggie stew.)

**Paratha/Myanmar (Burma)**: Common throughout southeast Asia, paratha—a flaky, buttery, layered flatbread—is often enjoyed, in Myanmar, with eggs at breakfast or as dessert, when it’s sprinkled with sugar.

**Naan/India**: Another classic southeast Asian dish, naan is a leavened flatbread that’s usually baked inside a very hot tandoor oven.

**Frybread/North America**: Invented by American Indians out of necessity, the simple, flat dough bread is fried (or deep-fried) in oil or lard and then eaten plain, topped with honey or jam, or layered with a tangle of taco-like fillings.

**Focaccia/Italy**: This centuries-old, yeasted flatbread—you’ll recognize it by its dimpled top, the result of indentations made before the baking process—was originally cooked over a hearth. Today, sweet and savory versions abound.

**Lavash/Middle East**: Made with just flour, water, and salt, this classic Middle Eastern dish—popular in Turkey, Iran, Armenia, and elsewhere—is thin and soft and great for dipping.

---

**TACOS EL METATE**
1742 S. Chambers Road
720.353.4095
tacoselmetateco.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
South Central
All your favorites are on the menu here: tacos, burritos, tortas, and quesadillas—for breakfast, too. Tacos El Metate is best known for its fried fish tacos, topped with a house-made cream sauce, and nacho-like carne asada fries.

**TACOS JUNIOR INC.**
11505 E. Colfax Ave.
720.710.8723
Lunch, Dinner
$
Northwest
A brightly decorated Mexican fast-casual spot serving a sizable menu of authentic dishes, including tacos, tortas, burritos, and sopes. Wash your pick down with a refreshing agua fresca.

**TACOS LA MORENITA**
15493 E. Hampden Ave.
720.379.3058
tacoslamorenita.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$
South Central
This restaurant is known for its birria tacos (stewed meat in a fried tortilla), but also cooks up breakfast burritos, tortas, sopes, gorditas, and soft tacos.

**TORTAS Y TACOS EL CHINO**
796 Peoria St.
303.360.8765
tortas-y-tacos-el-chino.business.site
Breakfast, Lunch
$
Northwest
A modest eatery focused on classic flavors. Customer favorites include the smothered burritos and birria (marinated beef) tacos.

**TAQUERIA JALISCO MEXICAN GRILL**
18581 E. Hampden Ave.
720.870.5980
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$$
South Central
A small, family-owned restaurant where the plates nearly overflow with freshly made Mexican dishes. The smothered breakfast burrito and tacos al carbon (diced steak) are favorites.

**TORTISIMAS**
15021 E. Mississippi Ave.
303.750.2224	
tortisimasaurora.com
Lunch, Dinner
$
North Central
This bright, family-owned restaurant specializes in tortas, or Mexican-style sandwiches. There are at least two dozen versions to choose from, as well as fresh-squeezed drinks and homemade desserts.
Middle Eastern

MR. KABOB
12405 E. Mississippi Ave.
303.344.1968
mrkabobaurora.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$ $
North Central
Sit down and savor quintessential Middle Eastern eats, from shakshouka in the morning (eggs poached in a red sauce) to beef kafta or chicken shawarma—served as a sandwich or on a plate with rice—in the afternoon and evening.

SYRIAN

JASMINE SYRIAN FOOD
10180 E. Colfax Ave., Unit 186
720.418.1776
jasminesyrian.com
Lunch, Dinner
$
Northwest / Mango House
Traditional family recipes are the inspiration at this immigrant-founded restaurant. Start with hummus or lentil soup before digging into kebah (deep-fried meat croquettes) or chicken shawarma. Sweet endings include mullahabia, a Syrian milk pudding. Located inside Mango House.

GO AHEAD, EAT WITH YOUR HANDS

You don’t always need silverware when dining out: In many countries around the world, it’s commonplace to eat with your hands—places like South America, Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. That doesn’t mean you need to grab pieces of hot chicken with your hands. Rather, in some cases, you’ll be using a tortilla or other traditional bread as a utensil.
South American

PERUVIAN

MARIA EMPANADA
2501 Dallas St.
720.484.5927
mariaempanada.com
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
$ Northwest/Stanley Marketplace

At this casa de empanadas, the traditional, Argentine-style pastries are made fresh every day. There are four breakfast flavors and around a dozen other savory options, including a chicken chimichurri and a vegetarian Caprese. Located at Stanley Marketplace.

PISCO SOUR
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
14050 E. Evans Ave.
303.671.4437
restaurantpiscosour.com
Lunch, Dinner
$$$
Southwest

Take your taste buds on a trip with scratch-made Peruvian cuisine in a contemporary setting. For a lighter, coastal bite, you can’t go wrong with the classic, sea bass–based ceviche. More filling: The bistec a lo pobre pairs a rib-eye with fried eggs, rice, fried plantains, and a pisco sour sauce.

SPECIALTY MARKETS & GROCERY STORES

For locations and more, visit AuroraEats.org.
HOW TO: ORDER BOBA TEA |

Boba tea, also known as bubble tea or pearl milk tea, hails from Taiwan. At its most basic, it’s a shaken blend of black tea, milk, ice, and chewy tapioca pearls. But you can also customize your boba order with a choice of milk, teas, fruit, and even aloe vera. No need to be overwhelmed—simply follow these easy steps:

• Choose your base: black tea or the slightly less caffeinated green tea?
• Decide if you want milk. Fruit flavors tend to be better sans dairy, so we’ve heard.
• Iced or hot?
• Go light on the toppings. These add-ons actually sit at the bottom of the cup and there are plenty to choose from. Pick just one or two that sound good to you.
• Don’t build-your-own. Most tea shops have a lineup of popular flavors. If this is your first time ordering, go with a tried-and-true option and experiment from there.

THE COOKIE COMPANY
6150 S. Main St., Unit I-108
303.928.7592
auroracookieco.com
Dessert
$
Southeast
Indulge in 20 flavors of house-made cookies, ranging from sugar with sprinkles to snickerdoodle to O.D. (a chocolate cookie with chocolate chips and chocolate frosting). Order individually or get two free cookies with every 10 purchased. Located at Southlands.

LAS FRESAS
489 Sable Blvd., Unit A
303.367.0312
Dessert
$
North Central
Las Fresas satisfies “Mexican cravings” with a sweet array of ice creams, flans, cakes, mangonadas (mango slushies), escamochas (fruit salads), aguas frescas, and more.

MIETTE ET CHOCOLAT
2501 Dallas St.
9905 E. Colfax Ave.
303.658.0861
mietteetchocolat.com
Dessert
$$
Northwest / Stanley
Marketplace (1st location)
Sweet scents draw you in the doors of this French patisserie and chocolate shop filled with edible works of art. Having trouble deciding between the bonbons, caramels, chocolate bars, and seasonal confections? The sea salt–chocolate chip cookies are always a good idea.

SNOWL
1930 S. Havana St., Units 5 and 6
720.542.9902
snowlcafe.com
Dessert
$
Southwest
Snowl is known for taiyaki—fish-shaped waffle cake cones that originated in Tokyo. Fill yours with sweet red bean paste or Nutella, milk tea or matcha soft-serve ice cream, and your choice of toppings. Boba tea and Taiwanese-style shaved ice are also available at this adorable dessert stop.
CAKES BY KAREN
16873 E. Iliff Ave.
303.693.7454
cakesbykaren.colorado.com
Dessert
$
South Central
If you’re on the move, opt for the cupcakes, cookies, or brownies (did someone say German chocolate?). But Cakes By Karen is known for its customized, full-size cakes. Mix-and-match the 18 flavors, six icings, and 13 fillings to make the perfect bite.

DOUGHNUTS

THE DONUT HOUSE
3124 S. Parker Road
303.337.2771
360 S. Chambers Road
303.632.7832
25791 E. Smoky Hill Road, Unit 20
303.680.8505
thedomuthouse.com
Dessert; Breakfast, Lunch
$
Southwest / North Central / Southeast
Since 2009, Omar Dieyleh and his family have been satisfying sugar cravings with scratch-made doughnuts in a variety of flavors and styles (cake, raised, glazed, filled...). Cinnamon rolls, fritters, and coffee are also available. There are three locations across Aurora.

NEVERIA JEDANY’S
12132 E. Mississippi Ave.
720.583.1880
Dessert
$
Southwest
A neveria is an ice cream parlor, and this location delivers fresh-made scoops, chamangos (a mango-based drink), smoothies, and other sweet treats.

SWEET COW ICE CREAM
2501 Dallas St.
303.484.1573
sweetcowicecream.com
Dessert
$
Northwest / Stanley Marketplace
Sweet Cow churns out handcrafted, small-batch, creative ice cream flavors (think: oatmeal cookie or vegan Thai iced tea) on-site every day using locally sourced ingredients. Located at Stanley Marketplace.
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We do our best to include all of the independent restaurants, markets, and bars that meet our criteria in this guide. If you notice a venue is missing, or spot an error, please let us know at communications@auroragov.org.

(Disclaimer) While every effort is made to ensure the information printed here is accurate, changes may have been made by the establishment after this went to print. Before visiting a location, we recommend contacting the venue for the most up-to-date hours and menus.