

FOOD 'HOODS

Fortunately for Valley dwellers, you can get great food everywhere in the Phoenix metro area if you know where to look. Some cuisines tend to cluster in certain geographic areas, though. Here's a cheat sheet for where to satisfy specific cravings.

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WEST SIDE MEXICAN

The Valley is the land of plenty when it comes to comida Mexicana. You can go super authentic or gringo-ized - we like it all, and you can find it all over. However, for legit street tacos, burritos like Abuela makes and eloteros hawking street corn, the west side is the best side. Try Super Tacos in Glendale and Tacos Tijuana in Peoria.

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NORTH BARBECUE

North Phoenix is your go-to for 'cue cravings, thanks to its full rack of rib shacks. Naked BBQ, Pork on a Fork, Danky's BBQ, Bootleggers Modern American Smokehouse and HEK Yeah! Barbecue are keeping the pecan burning until Arizona's undisputed barbecue queen Little Miss BBQ makes her debut at a second location at Seventh Street and Dunlap Avenue.

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SCOTTSDALE SPECIAL OCCASIONS

It's cliché to locals, but it's true: Fancy-pants Scottsdale corners the market on special-occasion dining, from sophisticated steakhouses like Dominick's at Scottsdale Quarter to romantic Marcellino Ristorante in Old Town Scottsdale.

NORTH

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DOWNTOWN BREWPUBS

Downtown Phoenix has a deliciously high concentration of breweries and taphouses with solid food menus. Plan a pub crawl with some configuration of Angels Trumpet Ale House, Phoenix Ale Brewery, Wren House Brewing Co., Mother Bunch Brewing and more.

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CENTRAL CRAFT COFFEE

The cult of craft coffee is spreading, thank the caffeine gods, but you'll find the best roasters and shops in Downtown Phoenix, Tempe and Old Town Scottsdale. Local coffee empires Press Coffee Roasters, Cartel Coffee Lab and Sip Coffee & Beer House have you covered in multiple zip codes.

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EAST SIDE ASIAN

Every time we hear culinary scuttlebutt about a hole in the wall serving hand-pulled noodles (Nan Zhou Hand Drawn Noodle House), authentic regional Chinese (Original Cuisine), Malaysian laksa (BP Street Café), Vietnamese banh mi (Mekong Sandwiches) or badass bulgogi (Gen Korean BBQ House), the address is invariably in the East Valley, often in Mesa. Is our own Chinatown or Koreatown percolating?

Locals, what did we miss? Tell us what would be on your Phoenix foodie hit list at editorial@phoenixmag.com!