



Side Side′ Best est

1 AL'S UPSTAIRS

alsupstairsitalian.com 304 Meeting St. 40 years of Italian cooking in West Columbia. Has been the location

of more first dates and marriage proposals than anywhere else in town. The food is good, the view of downtown is spectacular.

arianasofwestcolumbia.com 1720 Sunset Blvd. Greek restaurant with full menu, 8 different versions of gyros and 7 different kabobs. Very nice vegetarian dishes as well. The Pick: A Gyro, of course.

103 BLACK ROOSTER

blackroostersc.com 201 Meeting St. New Trendy place in town. Best location in town. Bistro food. Best seat in town on the deck looking at the city lights. The Pick: The Burger and a French Fashioned.

M BUTTERCREAM DREAMS

Q2 ARIANA'S GREEK RESTAURANT

thebuttercreamdreams.com 1230 C Avenue (Located INSIDE Tylar Rose). Need a cupcake for a special kid, how about a turnover, these ladies can bake. The Pick: Apple or Cherry Turnover.

05 CABAÑAS RESTAURANT

825 Sunset Blvd.

When you walk in the door and the customers are all speaking Spanish, that's a good sign, right?

06 CAFÉ STRUDEL

cafestrudel.com 300 State St. The legendary hangover hash browns put this place on the map. Open breakfast, lunch and dinner, always crowded and full of cool people. Good bar . . . if you work the night shift, have breakfast and a cold beer. Most popular brunch in town on the weekends.

O CAROLINA CAFÉ

The Pick: Hangover Hash browns.

carolinacafeandcatering.com 2250 Sunset Blvd. Wanna bagel in Columbia . . . this is the best. The Pick: "Everything

08 CASA OAXACA **MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

2410 Augusta Rd. The best fajitas in Columbia are hidden in a strip mall across from the Walmart. The chorizo chicken and cheese dish is great. The Michelada (Beer/Bloody Mary) is a work of art. Really special place. The Pick: Fajitas.

Gervais Street Bridge

OP CHINA HUT 3 103 N 12th St.

Hey, it's Chinese, it's cheap, it's good and it's fast.

10 COMPTON'S KITCHEN

comptonskitchen.com 1118 B Ave. The last great old-school meat and three in the midlands. Biscuits, Chicken and Dumplings, best Coleslaw and Squash Casserole, ask Martha to bring back the calves' liver! Bonus: If you are feeling down on yourself the waitresses here will call you honey, darling and sugar until you feel like a king. The Pick: Chicken and Dumplings, Biscuits or Breakfast on Saturday.

11 D&D COUNTRY COOKING

1824 Platt Springs Rd. An old timey diner.

12 D'S WINGS

dswings.com 920 Axtell Dr.

After Leo's closed these folks became the "Wing Kings." Still the best in town after all these years. Big wings, great salads, cold beer. The Pick: Hot Wings, Raw Fries (good bar too).

13 DELUCCA'S

deluccas.com 2275 Sunset Blvd. Really good Italian food. Salads are great. If you want pasta, this is the place. Pizza is exceptional. The Pick: Chicken Lasagna.

14 DUKE'S PAD THAI

dukespadthai.com 904 Knox Abbott Dr. "Moe's" of Thailand. A fast food Thai joint . . . who would have thought of it? Call in your order ahead of time. The Pick: Pad Thai.

15 EGG ROLL STATION

eggrollstation.com 135 Sunset Blvd. All I can say is they close at 3 pm and they mean it.

16 EL MARIACHI

1078 Sunset Blvd.

On one side, a store complete with groceries, a bakery and a butcher shop. On the other side, a restaurant. Walk around for produce, pastry, Mexican soda pops and cookware. The Pick: Queso Cheese. Use it with sliced tomatoes in place of mozzarella.

17 GOLDEN CHOPSTIX

1505 Charleston Hwy.

Thai and Vietnamese sold here. To be in business this long you know it has to be good. The Pick: Pad Thai.

18 GRECIAN GARDENS

Pick: Greek Chicken.

greciangardenssc.com 2312 Sunset Blvd. Huge and one of the last great Greek full service restaurants in town. Greek salad and Greek dishes. Lots of choices, very good food. The

19 HENRY'S GRILL AND BAR

henrysgrillandbar.com 2108 State St.

A local chain. The bar is better than the food but both are just fine. This may be the best place to have a draft beer and eat a burger on this side of the river. Great brunch on Sunday. The Pick: Buffalo Chicken Salad

20 JIMMY'S MINI MART/CITGO

812 Meeting Street

There are three special things at Jimmy's. The southern wrap aka "Dixiecrat", is the best onion sausage, fried egg, maybe cheese surrounded by a slice of fresh loaf bread. It's cheap, it tastes great and is the best breakfast sandwich anywhere, second is the fried bologna sandwich, OMG and third is the ribs and chicken cooked on the smoker out front on the weekends. It's all working man's food that taste great and makes you remember why America is the best place on earth. The Pick: southern sausage wrap with fried egg and a little mustard

21 JIN JIN CHINESE

469 Sunset Blvd. The Chinese buffet in West Columbia. Cheap, fast and good. The reporters in town used to hang here for sure.

22 JOHN D. HITE'S BBQ

hitesbbg.com 240 Dreher Rd. Welcome to the great state of S.C. The Hites have been cooking whole hog BBQ since 1958. The sandwich, well . . . BBQ on a fresh bun, wrapped in foil stored in a Bunn warmer so it is warm through and through. Best BBQ sandwich ever. Whole hams and picnics available on holidays. The Pick: BBQ Sandwich with a side order of Hash and Rice.

23 JUST US CAFÉ

1208 Knox Abbott Dr.

If you believe in stopping where the parking lot is full this is your place. Having the biggest crowds in WECO must mean something. The Pick: The Daily Lunch Special.

24 THE KINGSMAN RESTAURANT

thekingsmanrestaurant.com

936 Axtell Dr. (Parkland Shopping Center) If you can only eat at one restaurant, this is it. The best hamburger steak in the land. The flat top grilled rib eyes will give any steakhouse a run for its money. And, if you need to have a father/son dinner this is where you go. They do baked sweet potatoes and Texas toast too. The Pick:

25 KRISPY KREME

1200 Knox Abbott Dr.,

Hamburger Steak Platter.

Open 24 hours. World Famous. End of Story.

20 LA FIESTA

1220 Charleston Hwy. The Mexican food place we all grew up going to with Mom and Dad. The Pick: Order a Combo.

27 LIZARD'S THICKET

<u>lizardsthicket.com</u>

501 Knox Abbott Dr. & 2234 Sunset Blvd.

Ok, we said no chains but the Williams family has been here for decades. It is a fast meat and three at lunch or dinner but with liver pudding, onion sausage, fried fish available at breakfast, excellent sweet tea and the best cornbread and vegetable soup in town make this a good stop. The Pick: Vegetable Soup & Cornbread.

28 MAI THAI

maithais.com 2249 Sunset Blvd.

This place has as good of Thai food as there is. For lunch you get soup, salad and entrée. A perfect light Thai meal. At night it goes fancy and the food is just outstanding. The Pick: Drunken Noodles.

29 MANNY'S CHAMOYADAS

1228 Augusta Rd.

Mexican ice cream and snack parlor. Take your kids, grandkids. Really fun stuff. Mexican corn and a fun introduction of another culture. The Pick: Raspados.

MAURICE'S PIGGIE PARK

piggiepark.com 1600 Charleston Hwy. Et tu Maurice . . . now this is the best BBQ sauce and best hushpuppy, anywhere. Always outstanding and just plain famous. Maurice could have owned the world if it had not been for a flag. Need a special gift for someone? Send them a gallon of Maurice's BBQ Sauce. The Pick: Little Joe Basket.

31 MONTERREY MEXICAN RESTAURANT

eatmonterreys.com 199 Knox Abbott Dr. The Mexican food place we all grew up going to with Mom and Dad. The food is fast, good and just what you expect.

32 NEW BROOKLAND TAVERN

newbrooklandtavern.com 122 State St. What do you find when you look between the two best restaurants in town? You find hard rock, grunge, and live music at New Brookland Tavern. The Pick: I am too old to go in here.

33 NICK'S HOUSE OF PIZZA

nickshouseofpizzarestaurant.com 1082 Sunset Blvd. Lunch is great, dinner is great. The best Greek pizza this side of Irmo. The Italian Sub is without peer. The chicken tips sell every day. The Country Greek Salad will take you all the way to Athens. Run by a great family. The Pick: Super Sub.

34 OCEANVIEW SEAFOOD 2

oceanviewseafoodcolumbia.com 1000 Knox Abbott Dr. Fried, died and laid to the side. Since the Dukes opened their fish camp just outside paradise, this is it for West Columbia.



35 THE ORIGINAL BRUNCHES

2245 Leaphart Rd.

This one started it all. Great food, family friendly and big-time breakfast. Maybe the most friendly staff this side of the river. The Pick: Fried Catfish and Grits for Breakfast.

33 ORIGINAL TONY'S

1505 Charleston Hwy.

Welcome back Tony. Get the Pizza.

37 Oyster Bar

414 1/2 Center Street (just behind Terra) Is this Atlanta? Nope, it's the coolest new restaurant to open in Cola in years. Great food and cocktails.

38 PALATE

116 State Street

A new bistro from the folks who brought Poke to Columbia. Chef Levi promises great dinners and weekend brunches, if the food looks as good as the new interior we are all in for a



39 PALMANO'S PIZZERIA

palmanospizzalex.com 4350 Augusta Rd.

This is the Midlands only trattoria but it is disguised as a pizza joint. Visualize yourself sitting in a family Italian restaurant in upstate New York. Chicken Parm, Chicken Pasta, Pizza and Italian Salad Dressing all homemade and fantastic. The Pick: Chicken Parm. and Garlic Bread.

40 PANADERIA ODALYS BAKERY

103 N 12th St D.

Talk about a place no one in the restaurant biz wants you to know about. Great pastries, unbelievable cakes. Buy the same pastry you pay \$11 for at brunch on Sunday for almost nothing. The Pick: Cinnamon Doughnuts.

41 PARKLAND CAKES

parklandcakes.com 1220 C Avenue.

You want a fancy cake, they got a fancy cake. You want a homemade cake like the one you remember having when you were a kid, they got that too . . . and, yes, even wedding cakes.

42 PRIMAL GOURMET

primalgourmetsc.com 725 Meeting St.

Brand new and healthy food, the chicken thighs are special, and it tastes good and feels good. So if you want meat and vegetables but need to say you ate healthy today this is your place.

43 RUSH'S

rushs.net 2332 Sunset Blvd.

We will put Rush's up against "In-N-Out Burger" anytime, anyplace. Best burger in town. Best hot dog in town. One day we will try the chicken just have been stuck on the Chili Cheeseburger basket for 40 years. The Pick: Cheeseburger Basket.

44 SAFFRON

saffronwestcolumbiasc.com 1607 Fairlane Dr. West Columbia's Indian shop. Really good food, all cooked fresh to order.

45 SAVAGE CRAFT ALE WORKS

430 Center St.

Opening Spring 2020. Everyone is excited that West Columbia gets its first brewery and restaurant.

46 SECRET GARDEN

1119 Methodist Park Rd

Open on the weekends for lunch. Fresh vegetables, great fried squash a family run meat and three that takes a lot of pride and happiness in the food they serve

47 STATE STREET PUB

136 State St.

When I grow up I want to be Jim Oken. Jim owns the local dive bar for grownups in West Columbia. Many times they are still open when the sun comes up. Shoot pool, have a drink and not care. This place is great . . . and a private club. (Membership must be approved but its only \$1 to join.) The Pick: Cold Beer

48 STEEL HANDS BREWING

49 TEA POT CHINESE

steelhandsbrewing.com 2350 Foreman St. Not really West Columbia, but really, really cool.

teapot-columbia.com 829 Knox Abbott Dr., Ste. F. Need your Chinese delivered, this is the place. Their delivery guys

are everywhere.

50 TERRA

terrasc.com 100 State St. Best local restaurant in town. Top of the line food, great bartenders, great appetizers. Pinot and Pizza on Wednesdays a real hit. The Pick: Pinot & Pizza

51 TONY'S PIZZALICIOUS

tonyspizzasc.com 975 Knox Abbott Drive.

Another tradition that's been here forever. If you want to go back to high school happy days, try this.

52 TRUE BBQ

true-bbq.com 1237 D Ave.

Ribs, collards and hash all top of the line. All you have to do is follow the smoke. The Pick: Hash/Rice.

53 VELLA'S RESTAURANT & TAVERN

vellasonline.com 829 Knox Abbott Dr.

This place has 50 year old traditions. Steak sandwich is a staple, double dipped wings are a true neighborhood classic. Pat Vella played football at USC with Chuck Prezioso, the legend still continues. The Pick: Steak Sandwich.

54 THE WEST SIDE 116 State St.

From the owner of Crepes Croissants. Opening 2020. Finally breakfast and lunch on west end of State St. Might not really be a French restaurant but it does have a French owner. Bonjour!

55 WECO Bottle & Biergarten

wecobeer.com 626 Meeting Street

West Columbia's first craft beer and wine shop from the guys at The Whig who defined "cool" in Columbia. The outside beer garden is going to simply be a special place to gather.

55 WHAT-A-BURGER 804 Meeting St.

West Columbia's local burger place . . . fried baloney sandwiches too. Really good, pretty quick, great lunch stop. The Pick: Fried Baloney Sandwich Basket.

57 ZESTO

zestowestcolumbia.com 504 12th St.

The KING of eats in West Columbia. You stop because of the giant ice cream cone. You come back for the best fried chicken in town. Zesto burger, hot dog – all good. Real ice cream and milk shakes. Simply put, an institution. The Pick: Two Thigh Snack.