

Hometown hints:  
Some of BlueShoe's  
favorite places to eat in  
Music City



# DINER

Restaurant Suggestions



For country music lovers, there's only one place in the world to be **June 9-12, 2011:**

N a s h v i l l e • T e n n e s s e e

# Welcome to Music City

So you've arrived in Nashville for the CMA Music Festival and, as these things go, your stomach starts to growl. You're hungry for something savory and perhaps unique to Nashville. One of the most frequent questions we receive from our BlueShoe clients regards this pressing issue: *Where the heck is a good place to eat in Nashville?*

This list is our way of pointing you to some of our favorite eateries in Nashville. Because of the large crowds downtown during the Festival, we are focusing mostly on restaurants outside the Lower Broadway/Second Avenue district. There are certainly many excellent places to dine in downtown, but we think you'll find those just by strolling around. The ones featured in this little guide might be overlooked by first-time visitors unfamiliar with the city. How did we compile our list? The BlueShoe staff handpicked these merchants for no other reason than we like them ourselves. These are the places we go to again and again because we think they're really fine.

About prices: the restaurants range from fine-dining establishments to takeout venues, with prices varying accordingly. Where available, we've included web links so you can look over the menus. Restaurant hours may change so we recommend you call ahead to confirm operating times.

## West Nashville

### Bobbie's Dairy Dip

5301 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209 • 615-463-8088

Bobbie's Dairy Dip has been in the same location on Charlotte Pike for almost 50 years. It's a bit of pure Americana featuring old fashioned walk-up windows, made-to-order hamburgers, fresh cut fries and soft serve ice cream. They offer a full milk shake and ice cream menu, along with an array of freshly-made grill fare. Try their guacamole burger, sweet potato fries, and a banana boat. Nothing says summer like drinking a milk shake from Bobbie's, sitting in their outdoor seating and listening to doo-wop played on their speakers. Located across the street from another BlueShoe favorite—Wendell Smith's.



### Wendell Smith's

407 53rd Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37209 • 615-383-7114

Fondly known by the locals as the "biscuits and booze" place, Wendell's has a liquor store on the front end facing Charlotte Avenue and a classic meat-and-three diner in back. There's a deer head hanging on the wall and waitresses who'll call you "honey" and keep refilling your coffee or iced tea without your having to ask. Breakfast is delicious—savory home fried potatoes, grits cooked right, fresh sliced tomatoes, eggs the way you like them and, of course, biscuits and gravy. If you can't make it for breakfast, try Wendell's for lunch or supper. We recommend their fried chicken and fresh vegetables, including turnip greens, fried corn, cucumber and onion salad, white beans, and cornbread. Located across the street from Bobbie's Dairy Dip and near the Baymont Inn/Holiday Inn Express at White Bridge Road.

## Germantown (near the Farmers' Market)

### Monell's

1235 6th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208 • 615-248-4747

<http://www.monellstn.com/>

Here's where you can partake of delicious traditional southern food served family style in a lovely Victorian house. Set in historic Germantown a mile or so from the center of downtown, Monell's gives you all you can eat for lunch, dinner, and weekend breakfast. Skillet fried chicken is their specialty and is featured with every meal, including breakfast. They also serve some of the best southern vegetables in town, great iced tea, and delicious desserts. This is one of the restaurants you'll want to visit more than once during your stay in Music City—it's a long-time favorite of the locals.



## Restaurants

### **Downtown**

#### **Provence Breads**

601 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219 • 615-664-1150

<http://www.provencebreads.com/>

In the mood for a taste of the South? The South of France, that is? Provence Breads stands out in the Nashville market for its very chic, very French, and very good pastries, cookies, cakes, and breads. It's also a cafe where you can enjoy delicious breakfasts and lunches. Located on Church Street, it's within easy walking distance of the Courtyard Marriott and the Hermitage Hotel. It's a bit farther for those staying at the Hampton Inn downtown, but still worth the stroll. Bon appétit!

#### **Watermark**

507 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203 • 615-254-2000

<http://www.watermark-restaurant.com/>

Imagine a restaurant where contemporary southern cuisine pairs regional foods with classic French technique. Imagine a Grits Soufflé appetizer you'll be telling people about a year from now. That's what you need to imagine about Watermark. Whatever we say about this restaurant will probably not prepare you for just how remarkable its food is. This is among Nashville's best in fine dining. Great seafood. Amazing desserts. Extensive wine list. Two thumbs up.



*Watermark is located in the fashionable 12th South area of "The Gulch"—just a block or so from the lively bluegrass venue "Station Inn."*

### **Midtown (West End/Vanderbilt area)**

#### **Jimmy Kelly's Steakhouse (est. 1934)**

217 Louise Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203 • 615-329-4349

<http://www.jimmykellys.com/>

There's a reason why Jimmy Kelly's is considered a Nashville treasure: it does just about everything right. The decor is gracious and old-world while the food is fresh and exemplary. Steaks and seafood are top quality and the little extras keep you smiling—like the silver dollar-sized cornbread cakes served hot as a complimentary appetizer. The best baked potato in Nashville, in our opinion, has its home here.

#### **Hog Heaven**

115 27th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203 • 615-329-1234

<http://www.hogheavenbbq.com/>

An inconspicuous little take-out place adjacent to Centennial Park, Hog Heaven is where many locals (and a few savvy visitors) go for smokin' good barbecue and country vegetables. There are a couple of picnic tables set up in the open air entrance, but we recommend Centennial Park itself for a lovely place to sit and enjoy Hog Heaven's fine fare. There are quite a few Nashville institutions in and around the park, including the Parthenon—the world's only full-scale replica of the famous Athenian building and right next door to Hog Heaven is Springwater Tavern—a long-established bar where the beer is cold and the lights are dim.



*Nashvillians have been loyal to Jimmy Kelly's Steakhouse since its inception in 1934 for good reason—the food is exceptionally fine.*

#### **Rotier's**

2413 Elliston Place, Nashville, TN 37203 • 615-327-9892 • <http://www.rotiers.com>

One of Nashville's most beloved diners, Rotiers is located near Centennial Park in midtown. Its meat-and-three plates (entree plus three vegetables) are hearty and fresh. Several years ago a fancy food magazine put Rotier's on its list for the top ten cheeseburgers in the country. You'll find cold beer, superb french fries, and country-cooked vegetables here. Not far from the Guesthouse Inn Vanderbilt and the Hilton Garden Inn Vanderbilt, it's situated on Elliston Place right before it merges with West End Avenue.

