

For country music lovers, there's only one place in the world to be June 5–8, 2025:

N a s h v i l l e • T e n n e s s e e

BlueShoe Nashville

May 6, 2025: Nashville Dining Suggestions for clients during CMA Fest 2025



The Southern Steak & Oyster is one of BlueShoe's favorites in downtown Nashville and is located within walking distance of The Hermitage Hotel

May 6, 2025

Hello, BlueShoe/CMA Music Fest 2025 travelers staying at The Hermitage Hotel:

In anticipation of your trip to Nashville, we want to offer some resources for finding good places to eat. Whether you're searching for down-home classics or unique foodie discoveries, you should be delighted with the diverse offerings you'll find in Music City. All of BlueShoe's partner hotels (The Hermitage, the Hyatt Centric, the Hampton Inn Downtown, the Courtyard Marriott, Home2 Suites, and Tru by Hilton) are situated within easy walking distance of many restaurants. So you don't have to drive or take a taxi or Uber to find your meals. However, our little guide here features some places that do require a bit of travel and we include them because they're worth the trip and are considered by Nashvillians to be "the real thing."

First of all, we'd like to remind you that you don't have to leave The Hermitage Hotel (or even your room) for finding dining options:

- [Drusie & Darr](#) is overseen by the international culinary star Jean-Georges Vongerichten and offers breakfast, lunch, & dinner. We've had BlueShoe clients reach out to us to let us know how much they enjoyed dining here.
- [The Pink Hermit](#), tucked into a charming corner of the hotel, is an all-day café under the direction of Chef Jean-Georges. The light-filled space with both indoor and outdoor seating will evolve throughout the day, serving as a coffee bar with an array of pastries in the morning, shifting to casual take-away fare mid-day before serving as a destination wine bar in the evenings, with special vintages and light bites.
- [In-room dining](#) (room service). You can settle in and enjoy a world-class meal without leaving your room. Savor Chef Jean-Georges' celebrated cuisine from [Drusie & Darr](#) in comfort and style, whether it's breakfast in bed or a relaxed supper in your sitting area. Available 6:30 AM to 10:00 PM.

There's also a neighborhood establishment just a block away from The Hermitage that we want to highlight. [Puckett's](#) (500 Church St, Nashville, TN 37219) started out as a small community grocery store & gathering spot in Leiper's Fork, Tennessee and has grown into one of Nashville's most popular restaurants. Its home-grown recipes, Southern hospitality, and [live music performances](#) have earned it a number of accolades throughout the years. It was named one of Tennessee's Top 5 Local Restaurants in Southern Living's The South's Best Awards and one of the 10 Best Barbecue Restaurants in the U.S. in TravelAwaits' Best Of Travel Awards. Some of our repeat BlueShoe clients tell us that they go to Puckett's several times during each of their Nashville stays.

RESOURCES

There is a good general guide to dining that can be found on the [Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) website. Restaurants are arranged by categories such as Breakfast & Coffee, Cheap Eats, Drinks, Healthy Restaurants, Late Night Dining, Outdoor Dining, and more. If you scroll down, you will find information about the newest restaurants and bars in Nashville, along with details about unique Nashville food experiences (this one's for you, hot chicken fans). Continue scrolling to the bottom of the site to find a helpful filter tool where you can search specifically for restaurants based on cuisine type, neighborhood, price, and more.

[Eater Nashville](#) has several excellent articles on Nashville dining, including [An Eater's Guide to Nashville](#) (organized by neighborhoods), [The Best New Restaurants in Nashville, Winter 2024](#) (with a focus on establishments that opened in the last year or so), and their classic [38 Essential Restaurants in Nashville](#) (a guide to the best restaurants in Nashville, spanning neighborhoods, cuisines, and prices).

Casual to high-end restaurants (including one of our favorites, [City House](#)) are featured in Southern Living's April 2025 piece on [32 Best Restaurants In Nashville For Every Type Of Meal](#).

Finally, don't overlook the sometimes surprisingly wonderful resource of **local expertise**. Specifically, we suggest that you ask the staff people in your hotel (front desk clerks, concierges, managers, valets, and housekeeping staff) for their personal recommendations for restaurants they like that are within walking distance of the hotel. These people know the neighborhood intimately and may point you to a dining spot you won't find in the professionally curated resources cited above.

BLUESHOE FAVORITES

[The Southern Steak & Oyster](#)

150 3rd Ave. S, Nashville, TN 37203 (within walking distance of your hotel):: 615-636-2626
Located along the main thoroughfare of CMA Fest activities (only two blocks from Lower Broadway), The Southern matches our region's famous hospitality with a flair. Prioritizing locally-grown produce, directly sourced seafood, and delectably tender meats, you will find a quality farm-to-table dining experience with intentionally crafted entrees bursting with flavor. As the name suggests, The Southern Steak & Oyster features a shuck-to-oyster bar, along with an open-air kitchen and a hickory wood-fired grill. Dinner is served daily, with lunch available on Monday - Friday (11 AM - 3 PM) and brunch available on Saturday and Sunday (10 AM - 3 PM). Oyster Happy Hour is open daily from 3 PM - 5 PM. For those who enjoy dining al fresco, there's outdoor patio seating.

[Prince's Hot Chicken](#)

Level 2 South, Assembly Food Hall:: 629-895-4688
5055 Broadway Place (within walking distance of your hotel)

While Nashville-style hot chicken has become a worldwide sensation served in restaurants from L.A. to Melbourne to Singapore, **[Prince's Hot Chicken](#)** is where it all began. Named by **[Eater](#)** as one of **[America's 38 essential restaurants](#)**, if you're a fan of the heat, you won't want to miss your chance to dine where the hot chicken phenomenon originated. Prince's in Assembly Hall opens at 10:30 AM daily; you may want to arrive early in the day to avoid long lines.

Opened in 2021, Assembly Food Hall features over 30 eateries and bars. Located in the heart of downtown, across the street from the iconic **[Ryman Auditorium](#)**, the Food Hall is so centrally sited in relation to CMA Fest venues, we wouldn't be surprised if you find yourself there multiple times during your Nashville stay. Think of it as a food court, but with local, rather than chain, restaurants. While the location will be convenient, as with all other downtown dining venues, it will also likely be quite crowded, especially at peak hours. The Food Hall is packed with excellent choices, and we recommend you walk around and see what most appeals to you.

[Monell's](#)

1235 6th Ave. N, Nashville, TN 37208 (about 1.5 miles from downtown):: 615-248-4747
Set in historic **[Germantown](#)** a mile from downtown in a beautiful Victorian-style home, Monell's serves a sit-down style all-you-can-eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner. (Please note: dinner is available Tuesday - Saturday from 5 PM - 8:30 PM; breakfast is served daily beginning at 8 AM; on Saturdays, a midnight country breakfast is available from 11 PM - 3 AM.) The specialty skillet fried chicken 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 long-time local favorite is one of the restaurants you'll want to visit at least once during your stay in Music City to get a true taste of Southern cuisine. Street parking is available near the restaurant. We recommend reserving some time to walk the brick sidewalks among the charming historic neighborhood.

While you're in the Germantown neighborhood you can learn more about Tennessee's history, art, and culture with a visit to the [Tennessee State Museum](#). Located adjacent to the [Nashville Farmers' Market](#), the museum is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday from 1 PM - 5 PM, and is closed on Mondays. Admission is free. The Nashville Farmers' Market is a great option for lunch, featuring a plethora of cuisines and unique shops.

[Jack's BBQ](#)

416 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203 (downtown location within walking distance from your hotel):: 615-254-5715

1601 Charlotte Ave, Nashville, TN 37203 (about 1.3 miles from downtown):: 615-341-0157

Jack's BBQ is located downtown at [416 Broadway](#) and is walkable from all the downtown hotels. It is worth a stop (for the full southern experience, order your BBQ with cornbread, turnip greens, and baked beans). If you don't mind a short car ride, Jack's also has a restaurant at [1601 Charlotte Avenue](#) (same name, Jack's BBQ) and it won't be as crowded as the one on Broadway. The Charlotte location is not within walking distance of downtown, but it's very near (it's about 1.5 miles from the Broadway location).

[The Loveless Cafe](#)

8400 TN-100, Nashville, TN 37221 (approximately 18 miles from downtown):: 615-646-9700

According to Southern Living, The Loveless Cafe has "[the best biscuits in Tennessee](#)" and the "fried chicken is mighty fine too." We haven't tried all the biscuits in the state, but we suspect the magazine may be right: the Loveless biscuits (complimented by the various fruit preserves they bring to your table as a side), is a peak culinary experience. Originally opened in 1951 to feed hungry travelers along historic Highway 100, the Loveless Cafe offers an iconic Nashville dining experience. All menu options are homemade from scratch with many ingredients sourced from local Tennessee farms. Breakfast is served all day (beginning at 8 AM Monday - Friday and at 7 AM on Saturday and Sunday) with the dinner menu available after 11 AM. Bonus: you can watch them make your biscuits. After breakfast, spend some time perusing the gift shops on the premises and don't forget a picture in front of the retro neon sign. The Loveless Cafe can become quite crowded at breakfast, particularly on weekends — we recommend visiting on a weekday morning, if possible. Located approximately 18 miles from downtown, it is the farthest away from the hotels of all the dining options listed here, but the biscuits alone make it worth the trip.

A parting suggestion: there is so much happening on the food scene in Nashville, we suggest you do a few searches on Google and see the array of articles and websites dedicated to restaurants here. You'll probably discover some places we don't even know about yet.

Bon appétit!