

# MODERN MIDWEST

more than just corn

## 5 *WILDEST* CITIES

To celebrate a  
Bachelor(ette) Party

**GO** Rating the Midwest's  
**FISH** *best seafood* PAGE 18

|||||  
**The men that redefine fashion** PAGE 32

|||||  
**Romantic rendezvous** PAGE 14



*She is a thing of beauty*



**ROUGHIN' IT**



just got a little more  
**comfortable**

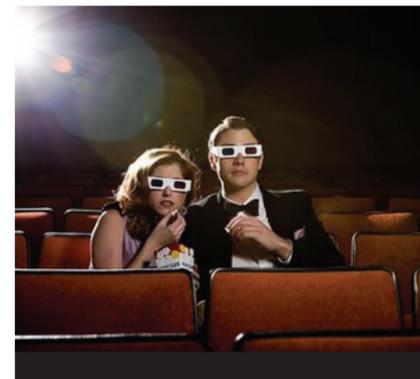
ONLY IN A

**Jeep**

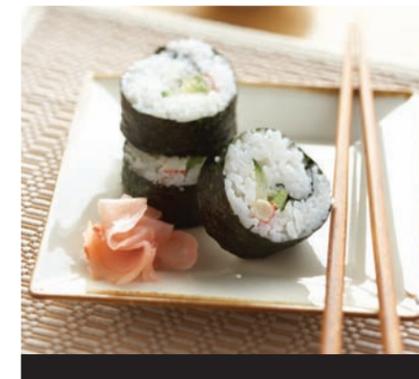


# MODERN MIDWEST

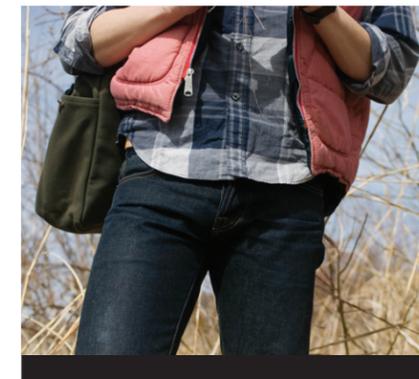
## CONTENTS



**14** Date nights will never be the same with these spots.



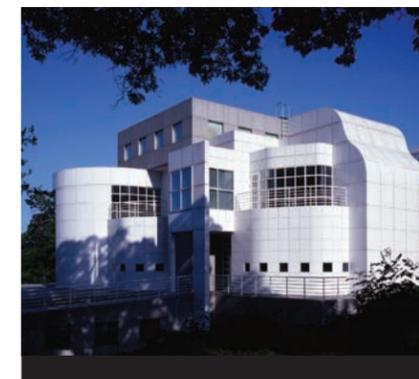
**18** You can get great seafood in the Midwest, we promise.



**32** Mens fashion in the Midwest? Not contradictions.



**22** Party with your favorite Bachelor(ette)s.



**12** Check out the hot spots Des Moines has to offer.



**26** New tricks to add some sizzle to your BBQ.

**(38)** See what events we have planned for this month.

**(8)** View our hottest trends in the Midwest - top bars!

**(10)** Music in the Midwest is better than ever.

**(7)** Learn what this outsider has to say about secrets.

**(40)** Think you've seen an outhouse? Try a two-story

**GET STARTED >>>**





## STYLE GUIDE

How to keep up with what's going on in Midwest fashion.

## YOUR NIGHT OUT

Don't "Ask Jeeves" for suggestions for the perfect night out in your city or wherever you are visiting for the weekend. Let [modernmidwest.com](http://modernmidwest.com) show you the way with our web exclusive detailing your big night out in your chosen city.

**MODERN  
MIDWEST.COM**

Get more content from this month's issue online!  
[modernmidwest.com](http://modernmidwest.com)

## SAVOUR SEAFOOD IN YOUR KITCHEN

Get your easy, tasty recipe tips from our talented cooks.



## BLOG: OUR MIDWESTERN MOUTH

Get to know the people behind your new favorite magazine and their thoughts on everything from when they upset Nelly at an annual holiday fundraiser to the proper etiquette at Olean's "Testicle Festival."



## \*OUTSIDER

# LOST AT SEA

Unearthing secrets of the Midwest



## AS A TEENAGER, MY FATHER WORKED

on a lobster boat. He is deathly allergic to shellfish.

For a man growing up in Massachusetts, with arguably the best seafood in the country, this is one notch below the ice-sensitive Eskimo on the irony scale.

For me, like any young man desperate not to be exactly like his father, who panics when he notices similar idiosyncrasies as his old man and constantly checks his soon-to-be receding hairline cursing at my father's genes, I moved to the Midwest. It was different. Exciting. It was far away from Massachusetts.

Unlike my father, I'm not allergic to anything. I love seafood. I remember my formative years, sitting outside restaurants on Cape Cod sampling lobster that had been caught directly behind the restaurant.

And that's what I missed. Not my mother's comfort. Not my friends. Not my childhood home. Nope, I missed dunking a delicious piece of lobster meat in a warm saucer of butter. I missed shrimp cocktail. I missed the sound of cracking open a fresh shell.

"Well we have barbeque," someone graciously told me. But all the dry-rub on all the baby back ribs in the Midwest could not have satisfied my hunger.

I eventually found good seafood. Hell, seafood that could rival any of the overpriced chicken of the sea from back home. But it took me a couple a years, a couple of miserable years of barbeque-stained fingertips before the revelation.

That's when I realized the Midwest has a problem. Why do great food, exciting music, trendy bars, thrilling nightlife, and eye-popping art in middle states have to be a hidden-gem or a rare find? Why do we not have the national acclaim of the coasts?

For me, the hunt for good seafood was a personal issue. But nearly every young, novice Midwesterner I encountered echoed the universal feeling of missing the comforts of home. Sure most did not miss lobster bisque, but they missed their local pub, or an exciting museum. Eventually, all of us grew tired of searching.

Modern Midwest was formed for this reason. We want to expose the truth, unearth the secrets, and show that the Midwest has more unique, exciting, cutting-edge entertainment than any of the coasts. Consider us the Scully and Mulder of the Midwest--- we want the truth.

Welcome to the Midwest. Welcome to Modern Midwest.

>>MATT KANE

Matt is a columnist for Modern Midwest who enjoys a cold beer, a good read and a warm lobster.



FDR's New Deal has got nothing on this special.

# Drinkin' on Wall Street

A new trend is hitting the bar scene...and we're talking about right in your backyard!

## Dirt cheap beer? Yes please.

What better excuse to yell and act crazy than a bar that actually gives you permission to yell and act crazy? New to many American ears, this bar theme plays out just as it sounds. Based upon a stock market trading floor, drink and food prices fluctuate depending on the item's demand. The various "stock exchange bars" have their own quirks and selling points — as well as something in common — which is this feeling of excitement and involvement that will engulf the drinkers as those falling menu prices rowdy up the crowd.

Why are Europeans always the first to

do anything cool? This is why we steal our nightlife ideas from the continent — because America is so competitive that when American didn't think of something first — America must bring it over immediately and start its own version! Stock market-themed bars have become one of our latest, favorite trends. Originating at a Barcelona bar called La Bolsa, this trend has hit New York (The Exchange Bar and Grill), Arizona (Stock Exchange Bar), and is now on to the Midwest. Chicago, Madison, WI and Columbia, MO are three of the first in the Midwest to walk the waters.

>>>HAYLEY BESHEER

## WHY WE LIKE THE TREND

>>> Your wallet will still be fat at the end of the night

>>> The stock market crashing at various points in the night will give you all the endorphins you need for a good time

>>> Lots of yelling and fist pounding can be incorporated -- and is encouraged!

>>> You'll feel like the bar is your best friend when the sweet deals on cheap drinks hit the charts

PHOTO: MADISON MACK

## Madison

603 State Street, Madison, WI 53703

In Madison, State Street Brats saves one night a week for Wall Street. Every Monday night, the Beer Stock Exchange is played. And you better hope your beer choice is playing hard to get that night, because the more demand there is for that beer, the more valuable it is, meaning the more expensive it is to buy. If no one else desires the beer you want, the cheaper she'll be on the market. A well drink originally priced at five dollars could drop to as low as fifty cents, that is if no one else is buying that item at that point in the night, and vice-versa -- if the majority of customers are favoring well drinks, the price for that item will steepen. And this is how the game is played.



MEMOIR

**CROWD:** Greek-affiliated college students 18+, Columbia locals  
**BEST KNOWN FOR:** Catering to young folks, light show, dance floor

**CROWD:** College students and tourists, more men than women, casual dress  
**BEST KNOWN FOR:** One of state's best sports bars



STATE STREET BRATS

## Columbia

1100 Locust Street, Columbia, MO 65201

Like Madison, Columbia, Missouri is a college town — the perfect setting for a themed bar. After a recent trip to New York, Memoir Bar's owner Aaron Stangel got the idea to bring stock market features into his Columbia, Missouri establishment. Memoir is a new bar to the college town and has struggled with fierce competition from long-standing bars in the area. Much success as of lately, however, has made it even more important for them to stay popular with Columbians. Memoir is currently putting this stock market theme into effect so that the establishment no longer has a club vibe but rather an interactive bar feeling — different from any bar in Columbia. Just as the New York stock exchange opens with a bell, three times a night the stock market will crash, and drink prices will become available at dirt cheap prices. Television screens around Memoir show the old and new drink prices. Memoir hopes that such interaction will bring a steady excitement for its customers.

**CROWD:** Preppy frat boy grown up into investment banker types. Dress is upscale classy.

**BEST KNOWN FOR:** Personal table taps, 25 plasma TVs, celebrity spottings



BULL & BEAR

## Chicago

431 North Wells, Chicago, IL 60654

Bull & Bear came up with its double entendre name because of Chicago's deep stock market and sports history. The stock market trend is obvious, but the playing of the Beer Exchange game is lacking, because the bar doesn't actually fluctuate drink prices like other stock exchange bars. Bull & Bear is more of a typical upscale bar with stock market features that don't actually function. Ticker tape runs above the bar -- but showing sports stats rather than stock stats. Five booths in the bar have their own table taps. The amount of beer dispensed is recorded and displayed on a meter at the table, so the customers and wait-staff can both monitor consumption levels.

Check out more content for this story online or on our iPad app

@ modernmidwest.com

## THE BLUES ARE BACK IN TOWN

INDIANA BAR BRINGS THE BLUES TO TOWN

A legendary Faustian myth claims that Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil to play the blues. If the soul of his music survives anywhere today, the best place to catch a glimpse may be the Slippery Noodle Inn.

Since 1850, this building has served downtown Indianapolis in a number of ways: a bordello, a way station for the Underground Railroad and an impromptu firing range and hideaway for infamous outlaw John Dillinger.

Hal Yeagy took over the club for his father in 1985, and turned the one-room lunch counter into a beloved must-play blues venue. The setting has hosted a wide-range of renowned acts from John Mayall, a British bluesman and former collaborator of Eric Clapton's, to Luther Allison, a Blues Hall of Fame member and

ex-band mate of Howlin' Wolf.

For that extra kick needed in-between sets, make sure to guzzle down one (or ten) of SNI's homemade Blues Brews, which pair up great with one of their whiskey pepper marinated steaks.

If you are looking for that masculine experience usually reserved for Sylvester Stallone movies, the combination of sweaty blues, cold beer and a fine steak will definitely put a little hair on that chest of yours. Next time you find yourself in the "Amateur Sports Capital of the World," avoid the rather pedestrian visit to the Indianapolis 500 and check out one of *Rolling Stone's* Top Blues Venues. And if you don't like the genre of music that spawned modern rock, at least stop in and check out some of John Dillinger's old slugs that remain embedded in the lower east wall.

## MISTAKE BY THE LAKE

OBERLIN ALUMNI DECONSTRUCTS THE NAMESAKE

There is a small town near Cleveland, Ohio that is assembling an army. This army fires quarter notes and pounds percussion out by the orchestra-ful and has produced some of the country's best musicians since the Civil War.

Located just 45 minutes southwest

of the "Mistake by the Lake," Oberlin College's alumni are deconstructing that nickname.

The talent at this institution is 100% attributable to Oberlin's staff and its one-to-eight teacher to student ratio, says Paul Lockwood. Aside from the individual teacher-

student experience, the 207 Steinway pianos invite students to practice until their fingers bleed or their band gets signed to a recording label.

Oberlin Conservatory of Music alum's accomplishments go toe-to-toe with any other music programs in the country.

### Liz Phair



An art history major and major badass on her debut album, 'Exile in Guyville.'

### Karen Orzolek



She didn't graduate, but joined the indie rock band, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

### Greg Saunier



Ended up the drummer for the unpredictable rock band, Deerhoof.

### Jon Theodore

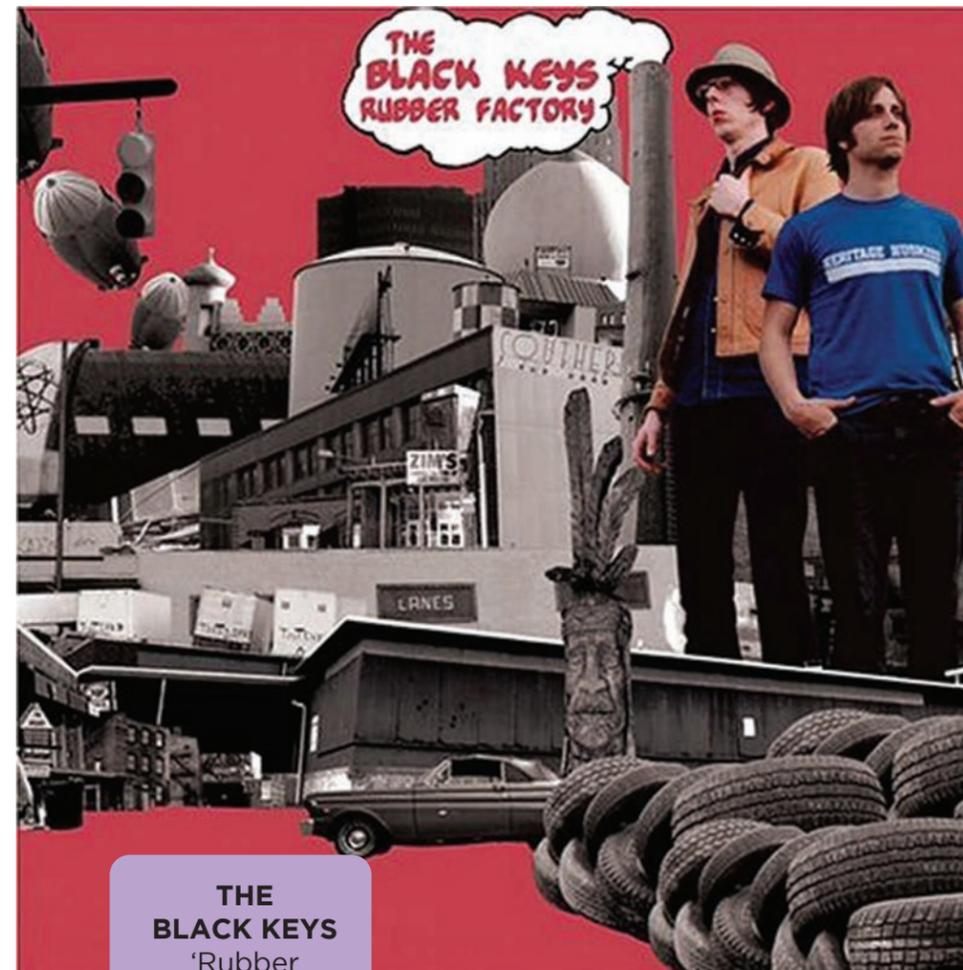


Bombastic and vibrant drummer from jazz-rock group, The Mars Volta.

## SUMMER PLAYLIST

# THROWBACK

These Midwest born-and-raised bands bring the funk to our humid summers year-after-year. These records gel with those hard-partying summer nights, but also keep you cool and breezy when the heat gets too intense.



THE BLACK KEYS  
'Rubber Factory'

1

The Black Keys deliver pure and simple blues-rock that might as well be sold with enough whiskey to drown a Louisiana sea captain. *Rubber Factory* improves upon the group's previous and almost equally stellar *Thickfreakness*. Featuring dense, layered guitar numbers like "10 A.M. Automatic" and the hauntingly heartfelt "The Lengths," this record shows all the warning signs of the Akron band's current global acclaim.

>>PATRICK HENSELER



THE WHITE STRIPES  
'Elephant'

2

The Detroit duo serves up a sweeping concoction of colossal riffs ("Hardest Button To Button" and "Seven Nation Army"), piano ballads ("I Want To Be The Boy To Warm Your Mother's Heart") and blue-collar rock ("Black Math" and "Ball and a Biscuit") that are capable of slaking all thirsts.



SMASHING PUMPKINS  
'Siamese Dream'

3

Iconic. That's the only word to describe the best album by the band that pushed grunge out of its flannel in Seattle phase, and steered it to a rougher sound created by this Chicago crew. The record progresses from highly accessible alt-radio hits to adventurous deep-cuts like "Spaceboy." But the hits like "Cherub Rock," "Today" and "Disarm" feature all the enigmatic, but beautiful qualities of this band that are mainstays in any self-respecting karaoke bar.

# EXPLORING THE CENTER CITIES: DES MOINES

Find fresh food, modern art and devilish drinks.

Des Moines is much more than a farm town in Iowa. Downtown thrives with an energetic night scene and offers palatable (but affordable) food. Experience Des Moines to the fullest using the Modern Midwest guide to this thrilling center city. >>MAGGIE SQUIRES



**DES MOINES ART CENTER:** Marvel at the deco architecture before you view the art inside.

## Farmer's Market

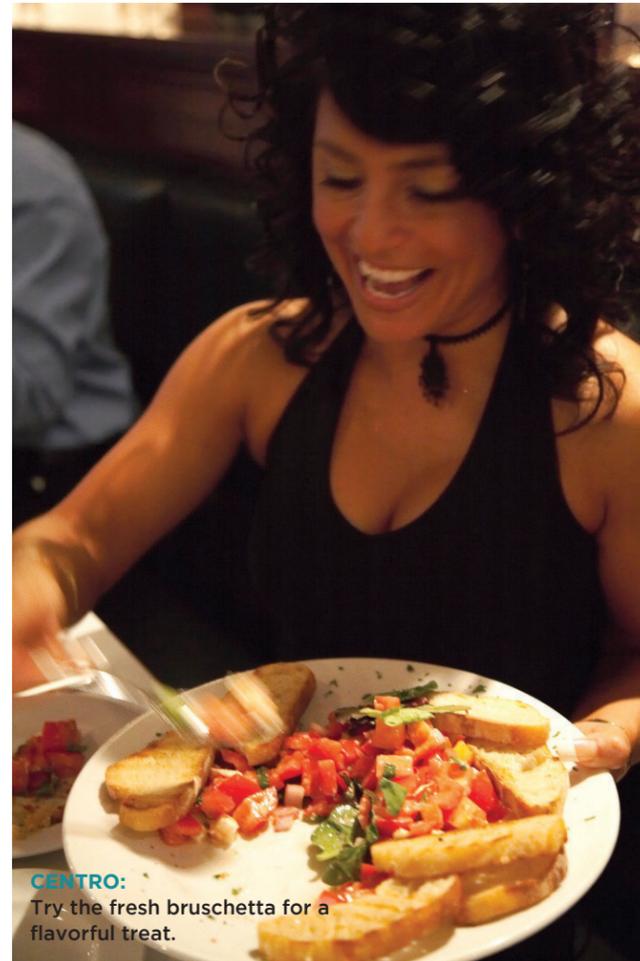
Located in the Court District, a newly renovated area of downtown and just down the street from the Des Moines River, the Farmer's Market is a great place to start your morning and get a healthy breakfast. With more than 200 vendors, the market attracts around 18,000 visitors each Saturday. Buying from the market will support local farmers and give you the opportunity to meet Des Moines locals. This year the market will be open from May 7 'till October 29 from 7 a.m. to noon. Check online at [desmoinesfarmersmarket.com](http://desmoinesfarmersmarket.com) before you go for a coupon sheet.

## Des Moines Art Center

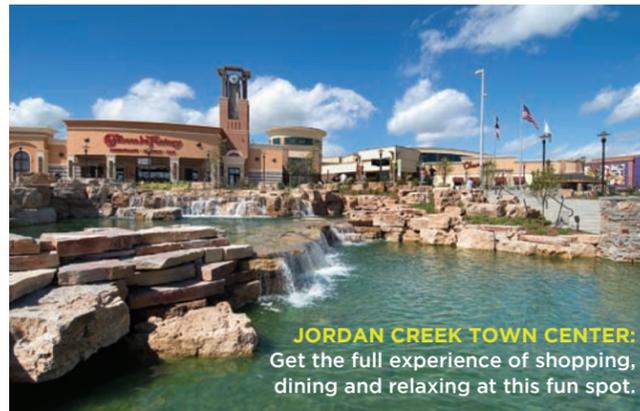
An awe-inspiring contemporary art collection lines the walls of the Des Moines Art Center. A reflecting pool surrounds the museum, which is set in a beautiful park with sculptures and a rose garden - perfect for relaxing. Because its focus is contemporary art, the museum does not get as much notoriety outside of Des Moines because it has fewer classic painters to brag about. However, this innovative collection is a can't-miss. It still boasts artists such as Henri Matisse and Georgia O' Keefe, and the lesser-known artists are not to be brushed aside. Many exhibitions are open this summer as well, including Iowa Artists 2011, which will feature Iowa artists, and Surface Value, which is a focus group show that will delve into the racial and sexual identity issues in suburbia. Visit [desmoinesartcenter.org](http://desmoinesartcenter.org) for more information.

PHOTO: © CAMERON CAMP-

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CENTRO AND JORDAN CREEK TOWN CENTER



**CENTRO:** Try the fresh bruschetta for a flavorful treat.



**JORDAN CREEK TOWN CENTER:** Get the full experience of shopping, dining and relaxing at this fun spot.

## The East Village

After spending a couple of hours being inspired by the contemporary art, you'll be ready for lunch. Go to the East Village area in downtown to refuel at one of the many delicious restaurants it has to offer. Stop into Baby Boomers located at 303 E. Fifth St. for "[F]ood just like your mom and grandma served it... hot, fresh, no substitutes, and no excuses." The menu is very reasonably priced; a burger only costs \$4. Get a side salad as well for an extra \$2. Polish it all off with the pie of the day for \$2.75. Visit [babyboomersdiner.com](http://babyboomersdiner.com) for more information.

## Jordan Creek Town Center

You'll have to trek outside of downtown for this shopping center, but it will be well-worth the experience. Located in West Des Moines' new posh area West Glenn at 101 Jordan Creek Parkway, the Jordan Creek Town Center creates a shopping experience you won't find elsewhere. The two-million-square-foot center has three areas: The Shopping District, which houses high-end retailers; the Lake District, which features a three-and-a-half acre lake with waterfront dining, bike trails and pedestrian walk ways; and the Village, where shoppers will find large and specialty retailers. Whether you need an Apple store, Old Navy or Brooks Brothers, this giant shopping center has it all. Visit [jordancreektowncenter.com](http://jordancreektowncenter.com) for more information.

## Centro

Venture back into downtown to experience the fine dining at Centro located at 1007 Locust. By now, you've worked up quite the appetite. Centro's Italian-American menu changes often to keep up with the freshest ingredients of the season. Try one of the specialty pizzas such as the Pizza Napoletana, which is topped with fresh mozzarella, tomatoes, olive oil, garlic, fresh basil and tomato sauce. Other impressive entrees include Spicy Seafood Fettuccine and Veal Scaloppini. Make it to happy hours to enjoy \$9 martinis or \$5 Limoncello, an Italian lemon liquor. Visit [centrodesmoines.com](http://centrodesmoines.com) for more information.

## The Court District

Satiated and dressed in a new outfit you bought at the Jordan Creek Town center, bring your day full circle and head back to the Court District. This area of downtown has a lively nightlife that's not too hard on the wallet. Start at the People's Court bar, which has live music, a casual atmosphere and can hold 900 people. Average drink price is around \$4, and it's located at Court Ave. and Third Street. Head a block over to the Liars Club at Court Ave. and Second Street. to rock out in this party punk bar where drinks are around \$3.50. Open since March 2007, the club hosts live DJs over the summer and has everything a bar should offer, from dancing to trivia to pool tables.



### TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Whether you're cheering for the same team or the archrival, watching sports brings out a lively competitive spirit in everyone. With baseball season in full swing, check out local schedules and get tickets to a nearby game. If you are a Cubs fan courting a Cardinals fan, though, remember you only have to be enemies in the stadium. Otherwise, enjoy the summer weather, the cool drinks and the festivities that go with a day or evening at the ballpark.

**Detroit Tigers:** Go to this Major League Baseball team's Friday or Saturday night games and enjoy a fireworks show after.

**Minnesota Twins:** Based in Minneapolis, this team also has great promotions and giveaways at its home games. Go to the June 11 game against the Rangers to see a Hall of Fame induction.

**Indianapolis Indians:** Get special Baseball Up Close tickets to these Minor League home games for as little as \$7.

**Baseball games encompass everything great about America: tradition, cheap beer and S.W.A.G.**

**Feel free to lean in to whisper in the quiet of a museum as an excuse to get closer to your date.**

# RE-VAMP YOUR DATE LIFE

### WHEREFORE ART THOU, ROMEO?

Art gives you and your date something to discuss and bond over. Find yourself inspired by sculptures and paintings while spending quality time with your significant other.

**Cedar Rapids Museum:** See the Art in Roman Life ongoing exhibit at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, located at 410 Third Avenue SE in Iowa. This summer, the museum will also be hosting a Shout Freedom! exhibition, which will have photographs from the Photo League, a non-profit photography organization dedicated to social change.

**West Chicago City Museum:** Although this museum, located at 132 Main St., has beautiful art, it also boasts some fun old objects such as a portrait camera from 1905 and a baseball uniform and fielders glove from 1936.

**eat.drink.paint:** If you would rather do the art yourself, then try out the new trend of places combining painting and drinking. Bring your own beverages to eat.drink.paint in the Clifton Arts Center, located at 3711 Clifton Ave. in Cincinnati. Classes are the final Thursday of every month. Not only can you imbibe your favorite drink and have fun with your significant other, but you will also get to take home a souvenir from the occasion.

## Stuck in a relationship rut? Try some of these unique dates

Tired of going to Chili's and then seeing the latest letdown movie from Hollywood? Just because you're living in the middle of the country doesn't mean your dating life should be dull. Don't settle for another night in watching Netflix. Get out and start having actual experiences. When you're old and gray, you won't talk about that one time you ordered a \$5 pizza from Domino's and watched *Dirty Dancing*...again.

Try some of these unusual ideas so you and your significant other can have something to reminisce about.

**MAGGIE SQUIRES**



**Cuddling in the theatre will only keep the spark alive for so long.**





Let the music fill in any awkward silence that might take place on your date.

Grab drinks with a new romantic interest to ease the tension in the early stages of dating. Just don't get too sloppy.



#### DRINK UP

Going out for drinks can help ease the tension of those first few necessary small-talk conversations every just-budding couple must have. A beer or cocktail in hand can make a conversation about work, life and future plans seem much less mundane.

**The Globe Pub:** This Chicago bar has Quiz Night every Tuesday. Try to look for a trivia or quiz night in your own area; the game-and-drinks combination will give you and your date a playful activity to distract yourselves.

**Downtown Omaha:** A night on the town can be fun, too. Meet for happy hour drinks with plans to catch up with friends later in the evening. You could start your night at the casual Kennedy's Irish Pub & Grill and move down the street to the Ozone for dancing and live music.

**Power and Light:** If you're looking for a little more upscale than downtown Omaha, try the Power and Light district in Kansas City. The bars have different themes, too, which can make for an entertaining night. Try Shark Bar, located at 1340 Grand Blvd., to see a beach bar where the guy bartenders are shirtless and the girl bartenders wear bikinis. If a rock bar is more your style, try the Angels Rock Bar at 1323 Walnut St. and enjoy the live music.



#### VENTURE OUT OF THE CITY

To recharge your dating life, get outside and stay outside. The Midwest has beautiful parks just waiting to be explored. Pack a picnic and walk a trail for a date that's out of the ordinary. Canoe down a winding river and take a leap of faith together off a cliff (provided the cliff is actually safe to jump off). The outdoors will bring out the adventurous side in both of you.

**Boundary Waters Canoe Area Park:** Located in Ely, MI, you and your date will find total tranquility here, where roads and motorized crafts aren't allowed. Take in the lush scenery, which includes rushing waterfalls, winding rivers and thick forest. Visit [boundarywaters.com](http://boundarywaters.com) for more information.

**Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park:** Dunes towering over 180 ft on the southern shore of Lake Michigan in Porter, IN will take you and your date's breath away. Visit [nps.gov](http://nps.gov) for more information.

**Wind Cave National Park:** Take a tour by candlelight of the cave near Rapid City, SD. Having to cling to your date to maneuver the otherwise pitch-black cave will certainly spice up the night. Visit [wind.cave.national-park.com](http://wind.cave.national-park.com) for more information.

Explore your adventurous side and go on a hike together. (above)

#### WINE AND DINE YOUR DATE

Going out to dinner for a date might be a cliché, but it's a cliché for a reason. In the realm of romance, nearly nothing beats fine wining and dining. You just have to make sure you go somewhere that creates a memorable experience. Maybe it's the white tablecloths, the fancily folded napkins or the very fine wine, but it's hard not to feel giddy in a fine dining atmosphere.

**Fogo de Chao:** Though on the pricey side, a Brazilian steakhouse such as Fogo de Chao can be worth the money. Gaucho chefs bring you top sirloins, lamb, pork and more until you've eaten so much that you're not sure you could ever eat again. The energetic atmosphere will make the date festive and fun. Midwest locations include Minneapolis, Kansas City, Chicago, Indianapolis and Denver.

**Morton's Steakhouse:** Impress your date with some of the finest steak in the States. Morton's only uses prime beef, which accounts for less than 2 percent of the beef in the country. The atmosphere is classic with white tablecloths but also feels friendly with an open kitchen where you can watch the chefs work. Midwest locations include Denver, Naperville, IL, Northbrook, IL, and Rosemont, IL.

**Melting Pot:** Enjoy a dimly lit, private atmosphere at the Melting Pot, a high-end fondue restaurant with locations throughout the Midwest. Nothing sets the mood quite like melted chocolate and a smooth red wine, such as the certified organic 2005 Syrah with rich blackberries and dark chocolate.



# Out of Water



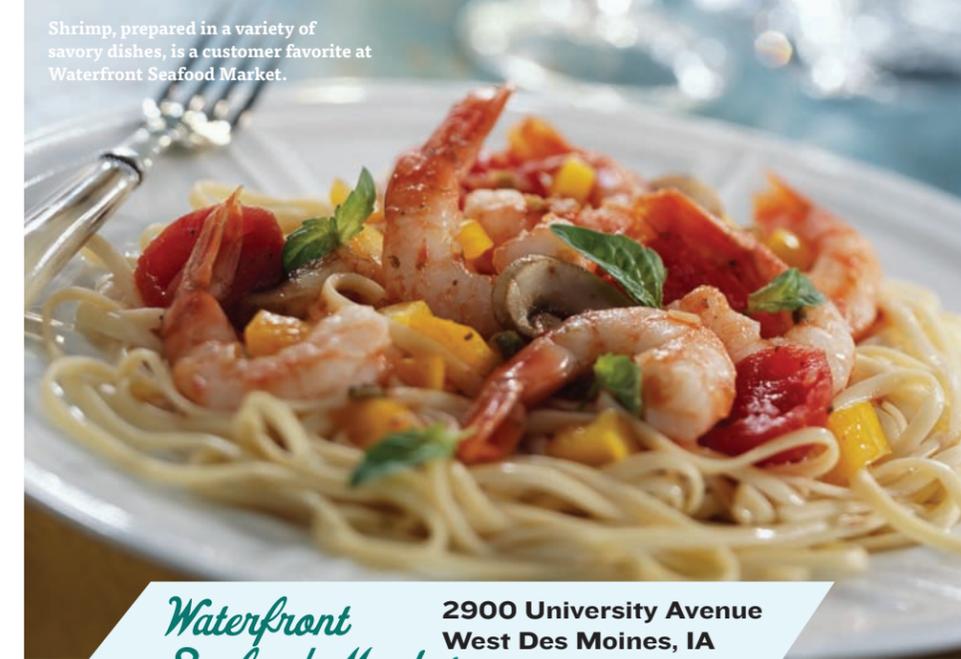
Just because we don't live on the sea doesn't mean we don't have access to the sea. Counting down the seven best seafood restaurants in the Midwest >>>

## WE CRACK OPEN CRAB LEGS AND BITE INTO

whitefish like the rest of the coastal folk because we, too, like to fulfill our underwater fancies. And hey – it's not as difficult anymore to ship it all the way to heck and gone so we can enjoy our fresh fish – we get it in daily just like everyone else. So don't go stereotyping us middle-mappers too quickly now...we specialize in seafood too.

In order to dispel this pigeonhole that's been cast upon the Midwest, we scanned the region for our seven favorite local seafood joints - and only the most unique and delicious made the cut. We determined our list based on these factors: the freshness of fish, affordability, atmosphere and historical influence.

Shrimp, prepared in a variety of savory dishes, is a customer favorite at Waterfront Seafood Market.



### Waterfront Seafood Market

2900 University Avenue  
West Des Moines, IA

A family-owned seafood restaurant and market operated by a Ted Hanke, his daughter and two sons, Waterfront has been in business for 26 years. Known for the freshness of its fish, the store ships seafood daily, Monday through Friday. Most of the fish is bought directly off the docks of Alaska, Washington, Oregon and other coastal fisheries. Eighty to Ninety percent of the fish is bought whole and filleted at the restaurant once

shipped. Complete with an oyster bar, sushi bar, casual restaurant and seafood market, Des Moines residents and travelers can't keep from going back.

*Average Price* *Famous For*  
\$10-\$20 Clam chowder

*Awards*  
Best of Des Moines Seafood Restaurant award from City View Magazine for 22 years straight

Check out [modernmidwest.com](http://modernmidwest.com) for recipes for our favorite dishes from the featured restaurants!

### Alabama Fish Bar 1601 Race Street Cincinnati, OH 4520

*Average Price*  
Under \$10

*Famous For*  
Simplicity of concept -- serving only three types of fish and chips plus condiments

Looking for some home-fried fish and chips? Take your appetite to the Alabama Fish Bar. This cash-only, order-out restaurant has been in business in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood for 16 years. Not only do they specialize in fish, but that's about all they serve – fried fish – and plenty of it. When you visit the counter to place

an order, you have your choice between cod, whiting and perch fish. All dinners include either six or seven filets, a side of fries and two slices of bread; sautéed onions and peppers, coleslaw and soda are available upon request. The Fish Bar is take-out only, and the standing-room-only waiting area in the restaurant is limited most days because of the

establishment's popularity. Luckily, this place is known for its quick and focused staff members, and while you wait, glancing at the walls packed with old school sports memorabilia should keep you occupied.



## Rick's Cafe Boatyard

4050 Dandy Trail  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46254

Overlooking the water, watching sailboats float by and awaiting a plate of lobster is the highlight of Rick's Café Boatyard. Customers are able to look out onto the Eagle Creek Reservoir and pretend as if they're sitting seaside on the coast of Maine. Rick Albrecht opened the café in 1996 initially as an intimate indoor and outdoor seafood hangout. In addition to the seafood, Rick's is known for hosting weddings, receptions and large parties, and is now becoming a popular Indy nightlife destination. Rick's fully stocked bar is reaching a younger crowd as the scenic deck hangout has been compared to a summer beach party.

### Average Price Famous For

\$10-\$20

"Legendary calamari," fresh fish (Ahi tuna is flown in from Hawaii twice a week), the scenic atmosphere and their drive-in, fly-in or boat-in access

### Awards

Voted one of the Top Independent Restaurants for Seafood in Indianapolis by "Where the locals eat.com" and voted as a Top Place to Fly Into by the \$100 Hamburger Club

## Broadway Oyster Bar

736 South Broadway  
Saint Louis, MO 63102

Need your N'Awlins fix? This Cajun-Creole cuisine-serving, live music-playing oyster bar has just the right atmosphere for all of you looking to have a good time. Known for offering the freshest and most reasonably priced seafood specials around, you won't need to empty your pockets just to go grubbin' here. The Oyster Bar features live music seven

nights a week with a genre range from blues to reggae to rock to roots and more. The ambiance is historic, reminiscent of the French Quarter as the restaurant lives in a 150-year-old building with an open-air patio and cozy indoor dining room. If you're looking to let your hair down while enjoying Louisiana-style seafood, you'll want to try this one.

## Seven the Steakhouse

700 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403



Seven Steakhouse features over forty unique and classic sushi rolls.

### Average Price Famous For

\$20- \$40

Their Seafood Tower, Sky Bar, All-you-can-eat sushi Sunday and Monday and Double Colossal Seafood Tower.

This chic, three-floor seafood and steakhouse is known for their all-you-can-eat sushi special every Sunday and Monday. The sushi is the highlight and also available at the sky bar which keeps the establishment popular until late hours. 7steakhouse's seafood tower makes seafood lovers marvel. A \$90 (and \$150 for a Double Colossal Seafood Tower) jumble of lobster tail, king crab legs, oysters, jumbo lump crab, and more make up this incredible, seafood-satisfying dish. If you have a large appetite and are willing to splurge, you won't be disappointed.

## Joe Tess Place

5424 S 24th St.  
Omaha NE 68102

At Joe Tess Place, the famous dish is the Famous Fish -- the oldest and most popular item on the menu, which really just stands for the restaurant's batter-fried slab of carp on rye bread. The fish sandwich has been the number one customer-favorite since the establishment opened in the 1930's as a neighborhood tavern. Back then,

carp portions were deep fried, placed in a cookie jar and sold for 15 cents -- and today they sell their Famous Fish for just \$2.95 a sandwich! Other specialties include fresh catfish, fried chicken and farm raised Maryland Oysters, which they offer year-round. If you're looking to cook at home, stop by the Live Fish Market right next door!

### Average Price

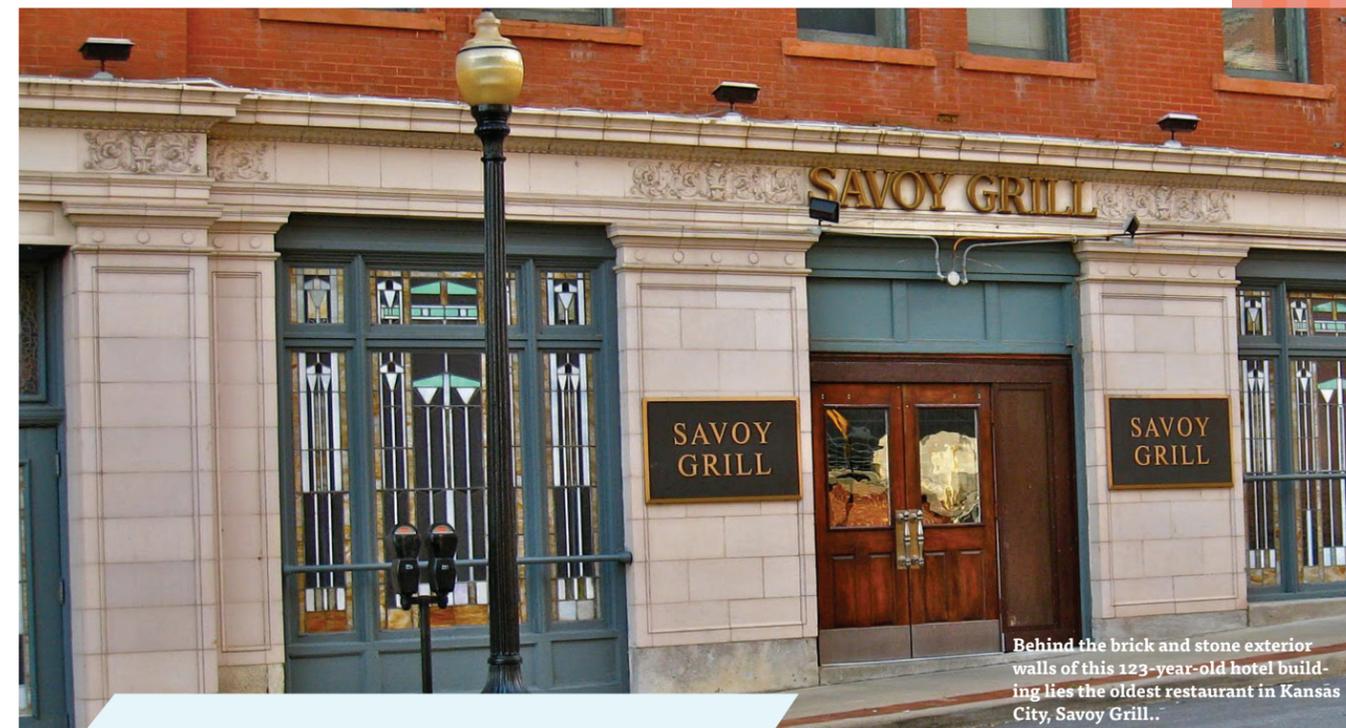
\$5-\$10

### Famous For

Fish sandwich

### Awards

Featured on the television series *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*.



Behind the brick and stone exterior walls of this 123-year-old hotel building lies the oldest restaurant in Kansas City, Savoy Grill..

## Savoy Grill

219 West 9th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105

Stained glass windows, lanterns and high-beamed ceilings tell the history of this oldie but goodie. Savoy Grill sits in the Hotel Savoy, built in 1888. The hotel's west wing was remodeled into an elegant dining room in 1903, naming Savoy Grill the oldest restaurant in Kansas City. Today, the hotel has been renovated into suites and currently functions as a bed and breakfast. During renovation, letters and artifacts were found including a paper describing how Harry Houdini was locked in a Savoy

phone booth by a traveling salesman. Savoy Grill's "presidents' booth" has been host to Harry S. Truman, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and Warren Harding. The menu offers a wide variety: from live Maine Lobster to steak - whichever way you like it. But don't let the presence of steak fool you - Savoy is known by many residents and travelers as the best seafood in Kansas City, specializing in unique crab dishes like crab meat crepes, baked deviled crab and sole stuffed with crab.

### Average Price

\$20-\$40

### Famous For

Its location in a historical hotel

### Awards

In 1974, the restaurant and hotel were both entered into the National Register of Historic Places

# BACHELOR *(ette)* PARTY COMPANION

Ah the bachelor/bachelorette party, a rite of passage for those fortunate (or unfortunate?) enough to throw away the joys of singledom for the opportunity of monogamy. Yet, if the thought of one final partner does nothing to dissuade you from taking the proverbial plunge, at the very least, a well-planned bachelor or bachelorette party should be your final act. Modern Midwest has compiled a list of the five Midwestern cities that promise a good time to host your final pre-marriage bash, whether you enjoy a quiet night with your closest friends or a wild night that will lead to secrets you'll take to the grave.

MATT KANE

## THE SMOKER

Cincinnati

Smokers have been marginalized in today's politically correct society, but it is your bachelor or bachelorette party and you should be allowed to do whatever you want. So, with your lungs in mind, begin at Anthony's Cigar Bar and Grille at 7641 Voice of America Center Dr.

Anthony's features a large selection of premium cigars for the avid aficionado. In order to bypass the indoor smoking laws in Ohio, Anthony's provides a walk-in humididor to sample the best cigars with your friends, or if the weather is nice, a comfortable outdoor patio. While Anthony's serves dinner, we suggest you stay for a few drinks and maybe an appetizer before heading out for a full meal.

Cincinnati's only four-star steak house, the Celestial, 1071 Celestial St should be your choice. Enjoy the award-winning steak and wine list, while also taking in spectacular views of the downtown Cincinnati skyline and the Ohio River.

Forgo the usually strip club nightcap and enjoy what every good smoker does, rock n' roll music. Finish the night at The Comet, 4579 Hamilton Ave., for live rock n' roll and psychedelic rock. The Comet features new and upcoming artists along with the house band, guaranteeing constant live music no matter what time you arrive. Kick back with a cold beer, listen to some excellent music, and enjoy your last few days of freedom.



**Smoke Away:**  
Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar.

## THE ARTSY TYPE

Omaha

Wild parties not your thing? Excited about actually getting married but feel compelled to have a bachelor party? We're sorry! But if you insist, Omaha is perfect for you.

Begin the night at Anderson O'Brien Fine Art gallery located at 8721 Pacific St. Gaze awestruck at some of the best artists in the Midwest in one of Omaha's best-kept secrets. For a better time, rent the space out so you and your companions can enjoy the night without running into any potentially snobby patrons. Drink wine and debate the merits of post-modernism as you begin your relaxing night.

After getting your fill of shape, color and form, hail a cab to the Bohemian Café located at 1406 S

13th St. Unlike most bachelor or bachelorette party locations, the Bohemian Café is a laid-back eatery that was recently named one of *Bon Appetite's* 10 best family-run restaurants. Relax in the cozy restaurant while dining on the Jaeger Schnitzel, a local favorite

consisting of veal steaks in a wine sauce and mushrooms.

End the night at on the lighter side at Omaha Funny Bone, a local comedy club that is sure to entertain. Enjoy a few drinks and listen to the best comedy Omaha has to offer. Check [funnyboneomaha.com](http://funnyboneomaha.com) to view a list of scheduled performers and their bios. Tickle your funny bone and enjoy a hearty laugh with your party guests.



**P-ART-Y:**  
Snobby patron-free.

# THE MUSIC MAVEN

Minneapolis/St. Paul

If music is your thing, start your night out at the Fasika Ethiopian Restaurant located at 510 N Snelling Ave. The restaurant is small and tucked out of the way so as to provide an intimate setting for all the jokes, gags, and shenanigans that will likely ensue. The authentic food is sure to provide for an exciting night of firsts. The Ethiopian music will allow the music-loving bachelor or bachelorette the ability to sample something new. Before you head out, try a few of Fasika's well-stocked domestic, imported, or microbrew beers, but be careful there's a long night ahead.

After dinner, and a full stomach before a heavy night of drinking, head to the Kitty Cat Klub on 315 14th Ave. Although the name is certainly misleading, the Kitty Cat Klub is not a strip club, but rather a hip bar featuring live music everyday. Sit on one of the many comfortable couches in multiple diverse rooms and enjoy local, emerging artists play the venue. Check [kittyclubklub.net](http://kittyclubklub.net), to see who's playing on your night.

Finally, hit the strip club for one last act of hedonism. Gentleman head to Dreamgirls at 14 N 5th St. Widely considered Minneapolis' best gentleman's club, Dreamgirls is a little on the pricey

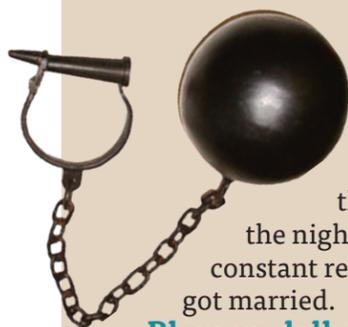
side, but the girls are consistently rated as the city's best. And if you didn't get enough music at the Kitty Cat, *Modern Midwest* guarantees you'll hear T-Pain's "I'm In Love with A Stripper" more than once, and by the end of the night, you will be too.

Ladies: if the thought of sweaty male strippers grinding on you is not your idea of a fun time, bring the girls to Nye's Polonaise on 112 E. Hennepin Ave. for late-night martinis. Recently named one of the best bars in America by *Esquire Magazine*, Nye's Polonaise mixes up some of Minneapolis's best martinis and a trendy spot to exchange gossip and naughty gag gifts.



**Just Dance:** Expect a late night on the dance floor of the Kitty Cat Klub.

## GIFTS FOR HIM



**A ball and chain:** Forgo the proverbial ball and chain, and purchase the groom a real one. Make sure to give to the would-be groom early in the night, and force them to wear the constant reminder of why they got married.

**Blow-up doll:** Just because it's a bachelor party doesn't mean that the groom should be free of women. Bonus points for Paris Hilton or Pamela Anderson dolls.

**Game-over T-shirt:** Make the groom wear this t-shirt with the constant reminder that the game is officially over. After tonight, the party ends and monogamy begins.

## GIFTS FOR HER

**Giant oversized Sex toy:** Nothing like making the man that she is marrying feel inadequate then a novelty replica of a certain area of the male anatomy.

**A leather whip:** Make sure her husband knows who's in charge when the bride-to-be gets this leather whip. She will certainly rule the house.



**Husband Training Flash Cards:** If all men are dogs, then all men must be trained. These gag flash cards instruct the soon-to-be bride on exactly how to get her husband to bend to her will.

# THE PARTY ANIMAL

Indianapolis

Fair warning, a night of debauchery is not cheap and this night promises to be pretty expensive. So if you're not willing to spend the money that was supposed to be a down payment on the house the two of you had an eye on, seek cheaper nightlife alternatives. But for those with the mindset of costs be damned, proceed with caution.

A night like tonight requires red meat and plenty of it. So, treat your stomach right and travel to Ruth's Chris Steak House on 45 S. Illinois St. Featuring healthy portions of steaks, seafood and an extensive wine list, Ruth's Chris Steak House is the perfect place to start your night on the town. *Indianapolis Monthly* lists Ruth's Chris as one of the must go restaurants to eat at when staying in Indy. Its eloquent dining area and private function rooms make it the perfect place to embarrass the bachelor or bachelorette. For added fun, hand them the literal ball and chain (from our gag gift ideas) and



watch as they must maneuver around the high-end restaurant.

After a stomach full of good meat and excellent wine travel to Blu Martini on 470 E. 71st St. for premium drinks made only from top-shelf liquor. Gone are the college days of cheap booze, Blu Martini prides itself on specialty martinis and mixed drinks. Take a breather in the extensive lounges as you swap stories of times past. If, for some reason, your stomach still growls, munch here on Indianapolis' best sushi. A Bombay gin and tonic complements a spicy tuna roll quite well.

As your blood-alcohol rises to a level that would make the late John Belushi proud, end the night at Brad Brass Flamingo, which offers the best lap dances in Indianapolis. Mention that you are part of a bachelor party and admission is half-price - pretty sweet deal. Just remember to come prepared with a lot of singles.

If the strip club is not on menu, remain at Blu Martini. It is one of the classiest bars we have found.

# THE FILM BUFF

Chicago

So you think you know your way around a movie. You've seen every bachelor-themed movie from Bachelor Party to The Hangover, and now it's your turn to relish in the debauchery.

Why not take a movie in to start your night? But any old theater won't do, head to Hollywood Palms, located on 352 South Rte 59 in Naperville directly outside of Chicago and enjoy movies in a way a bachelor or bachelorette should. Recline in leather seats, order drinks from the full-service bar, and snack down on appetizers far superior than popcorn and Milk Duds.

The Hangover 2 premieres this summer, the perfect movie for any bachelor, and will set the mood for the night ahead. Travel to one of many of Chicago's riverboat gambling sites and prepare to win

big at black jack. We like the Grand Victoria Casino located on the scenic Fox River, for its vast array of table games and its proximity to the city. Do your best Alan Garner and take home a nice little prize at the end of the night. Your significant other can't be too mad if you come home a few thousand dollars richer.

Finally, after a few shots (we hope) you're ready to end the night like any true movie star would. Rather than turning in for the night, stay at The Peninsula Chicago, a luxurious, five star hotel any movie star would be proud to temporarily call home. If you so chose, forgo the strip club and order some lovely female dancers to the room itself. And if you're really in the mood, party hard like our favorite bad-boy movie star Charlie Sheen. Just don't tell them we told you.



**La-Z-Boys** Cinematic experience from the comfort of a recliner.

# BBQ

## TO THE FUTURE

THE PROGRESSIVE PARTIERS' GUIDE TO THROWING THE UNIQUE BARBECUE BASH OF THE YEAR. THIS TUTORIAL GUARANTEES A SUCCESSFUL PARTY THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY PEOPLE VIEW THE POSSIBILITIES OF A BACKYARD BBQ. **PAT HENSELER**



This Indian dish even impressed President Richard Nixon during visits to the Asian country. "I am not a crook, but I do enjoy tandoori chicken."

**S**ummertime and backyard barbecues go together like Morissey and depression.

But barbecue parties were invented for good times, and as the host of one of these shindigs, it is your responsibility to one-up the 45 other similar parties you will attend throughout the summer. There are many ways to set your party apart and above the rest of the bland bbq's this summer and this story will let you in on the secrets.



Obviously, the key to a great backyard bbq is grilling up some great food. Charcoal grills might take an eternity to get started, but they typically result in tastier grub.

## OLD DOGS AND BURGERS

Hamburgers and hot dogs are outdoor eating staples for great reasons: they are portable, easy to make and in the same universe of goodness as Mitch Hedberg or falling into a pool of cotton candy. But the fact is, burgers and dogs will be on the guest list at every grilling party this summer, and even taste buds have their breaking points.

While children could eat chicken nuggets, mac 'n cheese and ice cream for every meal and honestly believe each meal to be innovative, us big boys and girls relish new experiences and this should include what's on the barbecue menu.

## BEER AND BEATS

Toss the beanbags and horseshoes in the garage where they belong. There are two surefire options for great backyard entertainment: booze and music.

Booze may be obvious, but don't fall into the fallacy that if you set out a couple beer selections and some vodka-lemonade your guests will finish



Be sure to offer your guests plenty of seating areas to rest throughout the party.

the bar stocking. Doubtful. A true bar needs specifics, sketched out in blueprint format. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither should the alcohol list you intend to bring good cheer to this party, so give it some deserved respect.

Get your guests involved, but don't leave the choices up to them. Here are the three necessities.

**MIXER SPECIALIST** - This person should understand flavors well and possibly be a chemist or at the very least watch NOVA. He or she should also be aware of non-drinkers at the party. Pineapple juice makes for one of the most succulent and exciting mixers available.

**BEER GUY** - Not your friend who drinks Michelob Ultra. This guest needs knowledge of the best under-the-radar brews. He or she may need a recipe outline in order to match beer to food more precisely. Note: Michelob Ultra drinkers can bring their own drinks if necessary. Eliot Ness Amber Lager hails from Ohio with rich, malt flavors and a fabulously ironic name after the dogged Prohibition era agent.

**HARD ALCOHOL** - Must be a connoisseur of all things alcohol. This individual must communicate well with the Mixer Specialist and guarantee this party will end in singing in the streets and not vomiting in

them. Templeton Rye Whiskey (Templeton, Iowa) is available for online order at [www.binnys.com](http://www.binnys.com) and it's bold, almost spicy flavor recalls the glory days of drinking whiskey.

As far as music goes, your guests don't want to hear your lame attempts at realizing your closet dream of being a DJ; nobody wants to party to your "awesome" Radiohead b-sides. Instead, hire a live band if possible. Keep it small, fun and light. Don't hire some art band that wants to sell your guests all their junk. Go for cover bands or a group with a beat you can dance to.

## GET YOUR GAME ON

First, you need a Frisbee. We suggest stealing one from any college-age wannabe Reggae stoner on your block. Next, you need two posts or pipes roughly chest height and spaced a decent Frisbee toss apart stuck squarely into the ground.

Next, place an empty beer bottle on the top of each pole.

Each team of two players stands next to one pole, facing each other. Each player must be holding an open beer for the duration of the game, including while throwing and/or catching the Frisbee. Taking frequent drinks from this beer is encouraged.

Choose the throwing order by any means necessary. Restrain from trying to impress the cute girl in the red top with your beer chugging skills. Chances are, she's not impressed.

Teams should alternate turns throwing and defending, each team getting one throw at a time. A team may only score when throwing, and when one team is throwing the other

team is "defending". In order to count, all throws must be deemed 'catchable,' and the thrower must not step in front of their pole.

The objective of the game is to knock the beer bottle off the opposing team's pole either by direct hit, hitting the pole, or just tripping up your drunken opponents. The defenders aim is to prevent the bottle from hitting the ground while at the same time catching the Frisbee without losing a drop of their liquid libation. Defenders cannot attempt to prevent the Frisbee from striking the pole or bottle. Teams play one throw at a time, one team at a time and alternate teams and players.

One point is awarded if the team drops the Frisbee. Two points if the Frisbee hits the pole and knocks the bottle down. Three points if the Frisbee hits the bottle and knocks it down. All points are nullified if the bottle is caught before hitting the ground. Teams must reach 21 points to receive the accolades for throwing a saucer-shaped toy.



Shoot for an even guy-to-girl ratio to keep naysayers from complaining of a sausage-fest. Leave the talk of sausage to grill-able meats only.

## TANDOORI CHICKEN

Tandoori chicken remains one of India's most well known dishes, and its transition into the barbecue world will be seamless. The rich collection of spices in this dish gives it an authentic Indian flavor, but it stays vaguely similar to any typical marinated chicken easy to handle for the amateur grill man or woman. This dish does call for extensive prep time with over 8 hours necessary for the marinade to infiltrate the chicken properly. Yet the wait is worth it, for there is enough of a kick in this chicken to jump your taste buds to life without completely frying them.

**COOK TIME:** 45 minutes

### INGREDIENTS:

1 (3-pound) chicken, cut into serving pieces, skinned and trimmed of fat  
 1/2 cup plain yogurt  
 2 and 1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice or malt vinegar  
 1 tablespoon minced garlic  
 1 tablespoon peeled and grated ginger root  
 1 tablespoon ground cumin  
 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander  
 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom  
 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
 1/4 teaspoon fresh-ground black pepper  
 2 teaspoons salt, or to taste  
 Vegetable oil, for brushing  
 Fresh cilantro sprigs for garnish

### PREPARATION:

- Prick the flesh of the chicken with a fork.
- Cut slashes or holes in the flesh to allow the marinade to penetrate.
- Place the chicken in a large plate.
- Combine the yogurt, lemon juice or vinegar, garlic, ginger, cumin, ground coriander, cayenne pepper, cardamom, cloves, black pepper and salt.
- Mix well, then pour the mixture over the chicken and rub it into the flesh. Make sure to turn the chicken ensuring complete coverage.
- Cover and refrigerate 8-12 hours
- Remove the chicken from the refrigerator at least 30 minutes

before cooking.

- Remove the chicken from the marinade.
- Lightly dab the chicken with a paper towel to remove excess marinade and brush with oil.
- Place the chicken pieces on a grill rack 5 in. above the flame and; grill, covered, with the vents open, cook for 45 minutes and turn the chicken 3 times until the juice runs after piercing with a fork.
- Serve with sprigs of cilantro and fresh vegetables (onions and tomatoes) along with flatbread (naan if available).



### SHIRLEY TEMPLETON

- 1.5 oz Templeton Rye Whiskey
- 4-7 oz Lemon-lime soda
- Splash of Grenadine

### ELIOT NESS AMBER LAGER

- 6.2% ABV
- This Ohio brew pairs great with barbecued meats, spicy foods and hearty breads.



### '57 CHEVY

- 1 oz. Southern Comfort
- 1 oz. Crown Royal
- Pineapple Juice
- Orange Juice
- Splash of Grenadine





The simple side dish of grilled watermelon provides the perfect mix of hot, sticky and sweet that will have your friends singing "Pour Some Sugar on Me" all night long.

## GRILLED WATERMELON

Grilled fruit? Most people shutter at the thought of this. But grilled fruit is quickly knocking the grill covers off master barbecuers everywhere and for good reason: it's delicious. And if it was up for debate, agave syrup is the same agave that tequila is made from and it works as a tastier and sweeter substitute for honey. Agave syrup should be available at most local food markets or co-ops. So, essentially you're eating delicious watermelon tequila bites. That's nothing to scoff at.

### INGREDIENTS:

Several 1 in. thick slices of watermelon

cut into triangles  
 ¼ cup light agave syrup  
 2 teaspoons water  
 A few dashes of cayenne pepper  
 A couple of pinches of salt

### PREPARATION:

- Set grill on high.
- Brush each side of the watermelon lightly with some agave syrup.
- Gently pour water onto watermelon slices and place on grill.
- Grill until just browned, about 2 minutes per side.
- Drizzle watermelon slices with the agave syrup.

## TOP SUMMER SONGS (COUNTRY EXCLUDED)

Summertime may be the best time for kicking back with a cold drink, but don't let your summer drinking songs be shaped by the likes of Jimmy Buffett and Toby Keith. Toss on these hits to melt the summer heat into rhythmic oblivion.

**1. "BLISTER IN THE SUN" - VIOLENT FEMMES** - I dare you to try and hit the whiny notes of Milwaukee native Gordon Gano on this outstanding track. Is there a better song to clap along to?



**2. "SUMMER TEETH" - WILCO** - Who knew that a song about suicidal thoughts could be so damn bright and cheery? There's nothing else to do but give in and sing back-up vocals.



**3. "SCHOOL'S OUT" - ALICE COOPER** - You might laugh and think "How lame and cliché a choice is that?" But the fact is this song is raw power and defiance of the limitations of the colder school months.



## LOOTING THE LEFTOVERS

After cleaning off the errant glitter and chicken covering your deck, you would like something to show for a great barbecue, other than angry neighbors. Here are five tips for keeping you out of the store a week by maximizing the amount of leftovers left by your out of pot-luck friends.

### ESTIMATE THE INITIAL GUEST LIST

**HIGH** - this way when everyone asks where Janice is you can tell them she flaked instead of explaining your burning disgust for her. It's basic math: people bring more food when there are more guests.

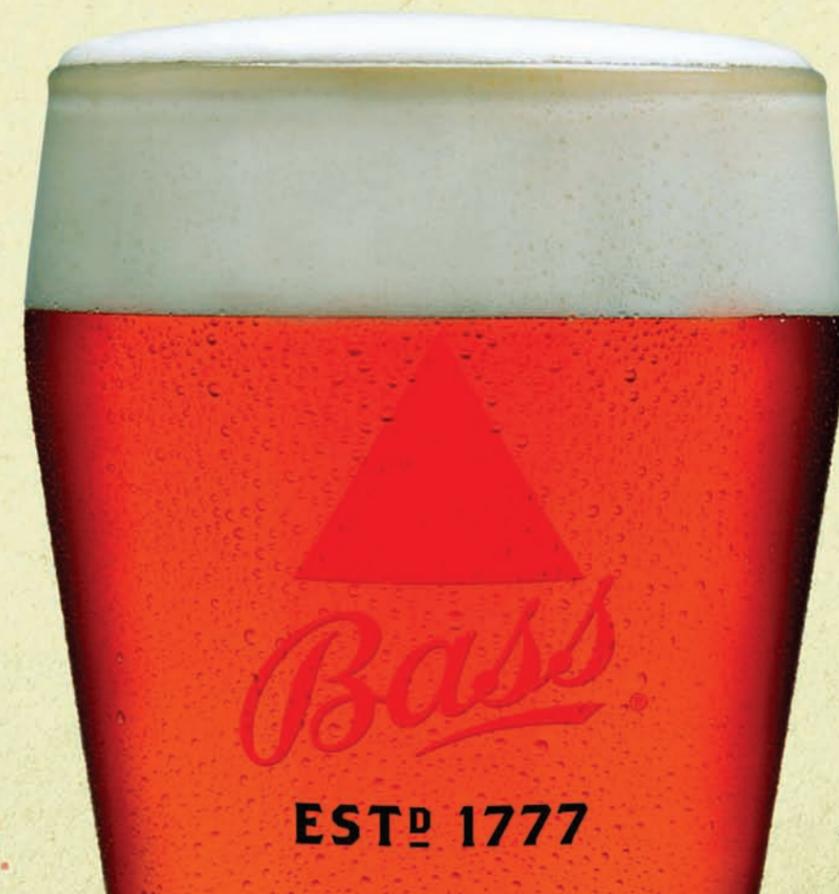
**START THE BAND EARLY** - this will move guests from the food tray onto the dance floor before their drunken munchies kick in to full gear.

**"MISPLACE" SOME OF FOOD** - all types of salads: potato, macaroni or garden can all be easily lost in the shuffle among the more satiable items on the spread.

**REQUEST SNACK FOODS** - chips, pretzels and nuts take up limited stomach space leaving the main attractions to you and yours.

**STOCK UP ON TUPPERWARE** - if your guests request the leftovers of their dishes, all the previous tips are for naught. Therefore, make sure there is ample fridge space and tupper-ware in your house to stash some of everybody's leftovers behind their backs.

# BEFORE your first pint DRAUGHT A DESIGNATED DRIVER

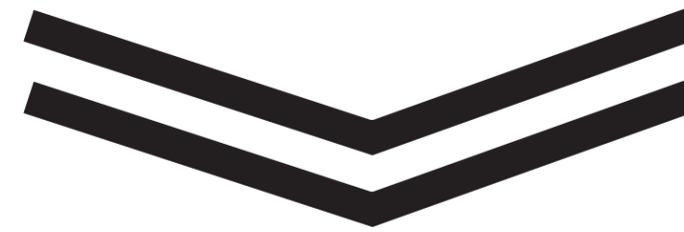


ESTD 1777

Always Enjoy  
 Responsibly.



*The suspended-in-gravity snapshot is common among the photos in the blog.*



# THREE MEN *and a* BLOG

**Midwestern boys show timeless and thrifty fashion for the center states.**

**CONNOR ELFRINK**



**I**t's late Sunday morning in a bright Chicago diner. In walks a young man with a stylish girl at his side. She, straight edged bangs, scarf at neck: sultry. He, filthy grey sweat pants and a T-shirt two sizes too large: slob. "Come on man, a little effort," Seth whispers through a cup of coffee to his brunch companion

In January 2010, Seth Putnam, Jeff Kieslich and Cameron Niederhauser, launched their fashion site, "Themidwestyle." In the first months, readership was mostly friends and a few others, totaling around 400 hits per day. Today the site boasts as many as 6,500 readers. The three men, all in their early twenties, hail from the center states and created a site that showcases stylish Midwestern men with wardrobes at a fraction of the prices on the coasts.

PHOTOS: JARRED DONALSON AND JEFF KIESLICH

It's late Sunday morning in a bright Chicago diner. In walks a young man with a stylish girl at his side. She, straight edged bangs, scarf at neck: sultry. He, filthy grey sweat pants and a T-shirt two sizes too large: slob.

"Come on man, a little effort," Seth whispers through a cup of coffee to his brunch companion

In January 2010, Seth Putnam, Jeff Kieslich and Cameron Niederhauser, launched their fashion site, "Themidwestyle." In the first months, readership was mostly friends and a few others, totaling around 400 hits per day. Today the site boasts as many as 6,500 readers. The three men, all in their early twenties, hail from the center states and created a site that showcases stylish Midwestern men with wardrobes at a fraction of the prices on the coasts.

"There is nothing wrong with wearing sweat pants," Jeff adds, "but you never know who you will see in public."

The design of their website is a collision of simple yet chic and their tongue-in-cheek tone gives a playful edge to fashion. The men have embraced the challenge of sculpting style for a region not noted for its fashion prowess

Where the East Coast has the Ivy League prep and the West Coast has surfer style, there is no iconic fashion for the Midwestern male. As a result, Seth and Jeff think people perceive the center states as frugal with no idea how to dress. Their blog counters that being cheap doesn't keep them out of the fashion loop.

"We don't just wear Carhartt and boots," Seth says.

The highbrow attitude of the fashion world has shaped the blogs sensible, yet slightly rebellious tone. Seth is an avid reader and fan of *Esquire* magazine. Paging through an issue recently, he stopped on a picture of a leather tote bag. The price tag in the fine print gave

him more motivation for his thrifty style mission.

"Nine hundred dollars, you expect us to buy that shit," he says.

The mission statement on their website make its clear what they stand for:



**We're a few young men born and raised in the Midwest.**

**We don't have time shares, trust funds or family businesses.**

**We grew up on family farms, state fairs and special trips to "the city."**

**We grew up buying a size bigger than we needed because "you're gonna grow into it."**



Slacks and a windbreaker? Seth, Jeff and Cam show off their knack for blending classic thrift with contemporary style.

**"We don't just wear Carhartt and boots."**

*Seth Putnam, Themidwestyle founder*

Much of their content, like "Thrifty Thursdays," stems from the idea of sustainable style. Their intention is for men to look polished, not spoiled and to be able to do it for several years with the same items. "Themidwestyle" works hard to avoid featuring clothes that are only here for the year.

"Style is timeless, trend is cyclical," Seth says.

Although the men focus on featuring items like quirky, \$6 dinosaur print dress socks from Target, they realize there's a place for a higher priced items. They condone an occasional splurge if the item is a perfect fit and is something one can wear in the future.

They have caught the attention of several high-profile pundits in the world of style blogging. Cary Randolph Fuller of the menswear style blog [Carryrandolph.com](http://Carryrandolph.com), picked up a post from "Themidwestyle." Things took off from there when Jessica Quirk, a New York Fashion Week blogger, picked up the story on her website,

[WhatIWore2Day.blogspot.com](http://WhatIWore2Day.blogspot.com).

"That was incredible for our self confidence," Seth says.

The unexpected part of the blog's success has been their readers; most are women. They use the blog to keep tabs on the latest style for their boyfriends and brothers, hoping to inject decadence into their wardrobe. Jeff says the smaller number of male readers are mostly members of the tight knit community of style bloggers, and although they have been supportive, "Themidwestyle" wants to carve out a new niche.

The group does not currently make profit from the blog but have high hopes for the future. They are constantly tweaking the layout and format and are excited to see where it will lead. Seth wants to turn the website into a full time gig. Jeff says he has a similar plan in mind,

"Themidwestyle will continue to grow for an avenue of creation and new ideas."



Jeff from the "Thrifty Thursday" shoot, wearing a ten-dollar tie and holding a briefcase he scavenged from an ex-roommate's dad.

## What's In

Jeff and Seth dish out tips on their fashion favorites.

### FOLLICLE FLAIR

Unaware of Hair? Seth says go short on the sides, long on the top. "Its the classic, 50's look."



### TIMELESS or TRASH

**FLANNEL:** "My closet is full of it," Jeff says. "There is a certain element of flannel that is timeless," Seth says.

**V-NECK SHIRTS:** "I don't have chest hair, why would I wear it," Jeff says. "You were all about it when we first met," Seth adds. "Well okay, I dabbled."



### SMART STYLE

"Don't be afraid to cuff your shorts," Jeff says. Bright colors, Sperry's in a salmon color and straw fedoras also make his list.





Party Hat  
\$7

Blouse  
\$18

Leggings  
\$20

Spikes  
\$25

# SHOP YOUR going-outFIT

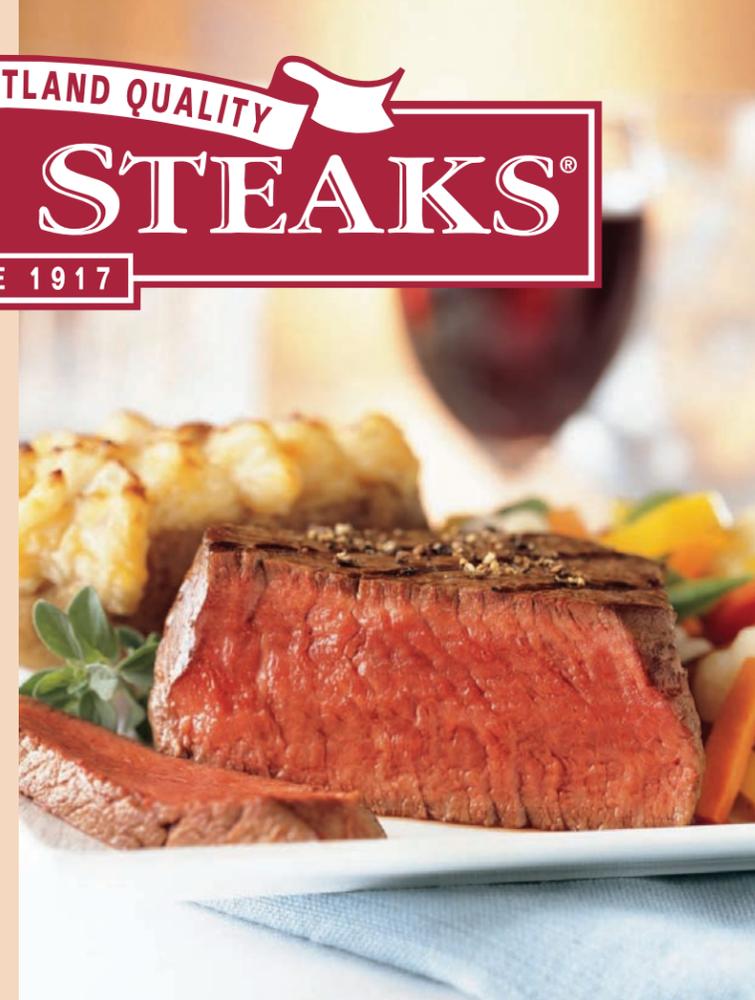


## Unbeatable savings on our Best Sellers

Now you can take advantage of these great savings on our Omaha Steaks Best Sellers. It's the perfect time to stock up on your favorites or try something new. Order today!

[www.omahasteaks.com](http://www.omahasteaks.com)

1.800.960.8400



What a suite view.



Hilton Saint Louis  
314.867.2910 | [hilton.com/stl](http://hilton.com/stl)



June  
2011



Last year's Taste of Chicago had record-breaking attendance.

## BITES & BOOZE

**June 24-July 3 Taste of Chicago, Chicago, IL**

Ten straight days of premiere dining on the streets of Chicago sounds like something reserved for nobility. But this fest brings it to the people and focuses on the restaurants of the city as well as the international flavors and recipes that influence its food scene. Entrance is free as are the surrounding concerts from nationally touring bands, but bring some cash for food if you plan on sampling the local eats.

**June 5: Testicle Festival, Olean, MO**

The town with a population of 157 will host the 17th annual festival, which draws over 10,000 people to pig out on the deep-fried turkey testicles.

**June 3-4: Smokin' On the Summit BBQ Competition, Lee's Summit, MO**

For the first time ever, winners of the event will qualify to compete in the state championship. Come out to downtown Lee's Summit and discover the next great barbecue recipe before everyone else does. For more information, visit [smokinonthesummitbbq.com](http://smokinonthesummitbbq.com).

## BEATS

**June 4: Minneapolis Mosaic Festival, Minneapolis, MN**

Experience music, dance, theatre, visual art and literature at this annual festival.



Mid-day at the Detroit Electronica music festival.

Held in downtown Minneapolis, the festival celebrates all the arts and the area's diversity with the Midtown Global Market. Visit [minneapolismosaic.com](http://minneapolismosaic.com) for more information.

**June 11-12: Weapons of Mass Creation, Cleveland, OH**

Founded by Jeff Finley, who works with the creative agency Go Media, WMC Fest is about bringing different types of creativity together and inspiring. It brings art, design and music together by hosting conferences, concerts and art shows. Visit [wmcfest.com](http://wmcfest.com) for more information.

**May 28-30: Detroit Electronica, Detroit, MI**

Held each Memorial Day weekend since 2000, the outdoor festival attracts some of the best D.J.'s from all around the world. Join the masses in the street and groove to the hottest electronica.

## WILD CARD

**May 31: Underground Comedy at House of Bricks, Des Moines, IA**  
Check out the Underground Comedy House of Bricks Facebook page and see the status update, "Underground Comedy at the Bricks will turn you into a goshdarn sexual tyrannosaurus yourself." Come out and have a few good laughs. Visit [metromix.com](http://metromix.com) for more information.

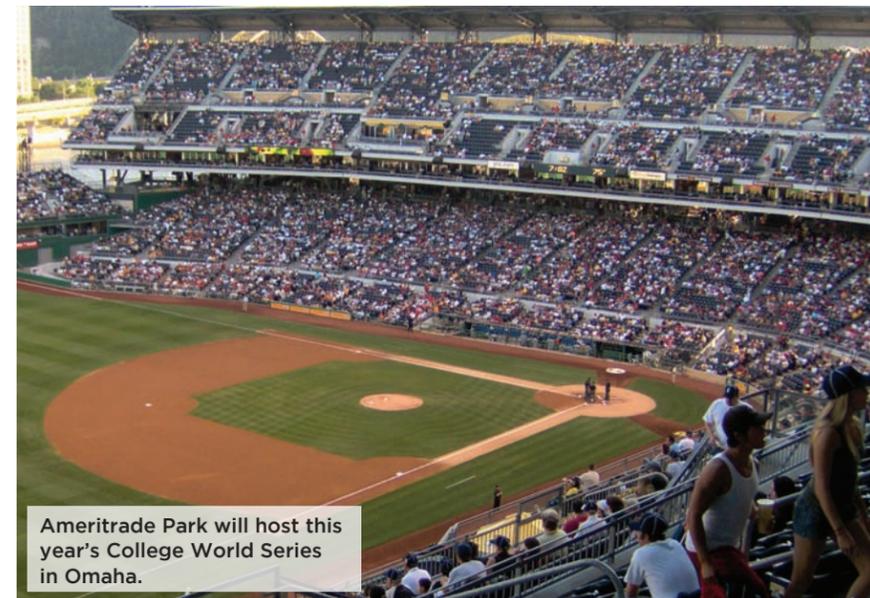
**June 18: College World Series, Omaha, NE**

Enjoy America's greatest pastime at TD Ameritrade Park. The game will be a blast, and Omaha has great nightlife so you can celebrate your win or drown your loss. Visit [naaa.com](http://naaa.com) to learn more.

**June 4-5: Warrior Dash, Cleveland, OH**

This isn't your average race. Competitors will crawl through mud, leap through fire and face some of the roughest terrain the Midwest has to offer. Visit [warriordash.com](http://warriordash.com) for more information.

**June 17-18: Pride Alive,**



Ameritrade Park will host this year's College World Series in Omaha.

**Cincinnati, OH**

In a city not known for liberalism, the festival attracts thousands of people and is growing larger each year.

**June 11: The Gathering Waters, Milwaukee, WI**

This free event is for the outdoor

recreation lovers. Enjoy the free rentals of fishing equipment, kayaks, kites and more in Milwaukee's Lakeshore State Park. Music and hands-on demonstrations including one for a treasure-hunting GPS unit are offered throughout the park.

## ARTS

**June 4-5: 57th Street Art Fair, Chicago, IL**

Hang out in Hyde Park while meeting and greeting artists from around the country. This festival offers an "Art Buying Boot Camp" for those novice art fans looking to gauge prices and learning to trust their tastes and comfort with the process. Best part is it's free to attend.

**June 11: West 18th Street Fashion Show, Kansas City, MO**

Each year, a panel selects 18 designers to participate in this esteemed event. The free event is held on 18th street, which is a gathering for the artistic and edgy in Kansas City. Visit [westeighteenthstreet.com](http://westeighteenthstreet.com) for more information.

**June 25: Indian Market and Festival, Indianapolis, ID**

Sponsored by the Eiteljorg Museum, the Indian Market and Festival honors the traditions of Native Americans. Nearly 130 artists from all over the country sell their art, and others do storytelling performances, sing and dance. Visit [eiteljorg.org](http://eiteljorg.org) for more information.



Models survey the crowd through curtains at the 18th Street Fashion Show.

## TWO STORIES, NO FLUSH

**This outhouse isn't your ordinary outpost. Four toilets, no plumbing, pure fun.**

When I think of outhouses, I envision the scene in *Slumdog Millionaire* when the main character, a young boy named Jamal, is locked in an outdoor bathroom by his mischievous older brother. A Mumbai celebrity is visiting the area to sign autographs just feet from the outhouse.

In desperation to get the celeb's John Hancock, Jamal slivers down the poop-shoot and crawls through layers of waste. I apologize for the grotesque imagery.

But for tiny Midwestern town Gays, Ill., a more than 100-year-old outhouse is a

source of great pride. This outhouse is not your ordinary outpost; it's a double-decker. When one enters the town, a sign reads, "TOURIST ACTIVITIES: Historical Two Story Outhouse 1872." The potty is a beloved local celebrity and boasts a Facebook page with nearly 2,000 members.

The outhouse was built by owner Samuel Gammill and added a unique luxury to his general store. Apartments on the second floor connected to the second level of the bathroom. The bottom toilet was used by patrons of Gammill's store. With two seats per level, the outhouse could service as

many as four at a time. One can now only imagine the delights of a bird's-eye-view doo-doo, as well as the insecurities of being seated below.

Although Gammill's General Store was torn down in the early 1980s, town residents petitioned to save the outhouse. The site begs for a slew of potty-related puns but might be the only reason the otherwise ordinary town stands out on the map. In the past, the outhouse had to compete for attention.

Just west of the waste-collecting rest spot sits the former site of what was claimed to be Hitler's bicycle. The rusted two-wheeler hung from a pole with a sign that read, "Hitler's Bike (1943)." While wagering which attraction is more offensive could make for an interesting debate, the outhouse now reigns as the supreme stop spot.

It may come as a surprise that a town could take such pride in an ancient outside toilet. However, there are thousands of outhouse enthusiasts in the U.S. "The Official Outhouses of America Tour" began as a joke but has boasted a popular website since 1996. It states that the crapper in Gays is not the world's only double-decker, but many maintain it's the most beloved.

When it comes down to it, the two-story throne transcends its manufactured purpose. Pride for the potty has been passed down by Gays generations and reminds us of a simpler time when innovation was a two-story wooden toilet.

To the townsfolk of Gays, it's not shitty. They don't need your potty pity. The town's main attraction may be an outhouse, but that's how they like it. On your next travel through the Land of Lincoln, stop in for a sit. You may appreciate the simple pleasures your grandparents found fit.

||||||| >> CONNOR ELFRINK

Connor is a man in his early twenties of average intelligence with dangerously pale skin.

ILLUSTRATION: BRYAN BUTLER



## VEGETARIAN CREAMY TOMATO

*Vine-ripened pear tomatoes pureed with fresh cream for a velvety smooth flavor accentuated by hints of red pepper & oregano, topped with our Asiago croutons.*

## TOMATO BASIL PANINI

*Fresh mozzarella, roasted & fresh tomatoes, fresh basil and all-natural sun-dried tomato pesto on Ciabatta.*

DISCOVER  
the new  
LUNCHTIME  
where every detail  
MATTERS

**FOR RENT!**  
\$1.99/visit.

**EFFICIENCY TOILET!**

**CONVENIENT!**

**COZY!**

**CALL JOHN FOR A SHOWING!**  
1-800-SKY-DUMP



*Budweiser*

KING OF BEERS®

