

The Charlottesville 29



charlottesville29.com

If there were just 29 restaurants in Charlottesville, what would be the ideal 29?

Below is the 2025 *The Charlottesville 29*, answering: if there were just 29 restaurants in Charlottesville, what would be the ideal 29? Further background is [here](#). The guide for each restaurant explains why it was selected, and includes ordering tips from the restaurant's chef/owner and appearances in [Five Finds on Friday](#), where other chefs or personalities have named a dish from that restaurant as one of the best in town. To be eligible,

a restaurant must have been open since January 1, 2024, and must have a Charlottesville postal address. (Top openings of 2024 are recognized as [finalists for Best New Restaurant](#).)

Where and what to eat in Charlottesville:

The 29

Al Carbon

With rotisserie chickens and Mexican street food, one of the best values in town

[Guide](#)



Photo by [Tom McGovern](#)

The Alley Light

A grown-up lounge and James Beard semifinalist for nation's best new restaurant

[Guide](#)



Beer Run

A beer bar, store, and eatery, Charlottesville's quintessential family restaurant

[Guide](#)

Belle

A café, sandwich shop and bakery, the Shanesy brothers' homage to their love of food

[Guide](#)

Birdhouse

Farm-to-table food, simply prepared, in the coziest room in town

[Guide](#)

Bizou

Gussied-up comfort food and sophisticated specials in a diner-like setting

[Guide](#)

Bodo's Bagels

Feeding 6,000 people per day, Charlottesville's signature restaurant

[Guide](#) • [Full Article](#)

C&O

The heart of Charlottesville dining, in Dean Maupin's expert hands

[Guide](#)

Conmole

With traditional family recipes, an escape to Oaxaca in Belmont

[Guide](#)

Crushpad / Luce

Charlottesville's wine Mecca, with world class pasta

[Guide](#)

Duner's

An old-school institution back on its feet, with rich, classic, delicious fare

[Guide](#)

Fleurie

Brian Helleberg's serene downtown temple of sophisticated French cuisine

[Guide](#)

Guajiros

A family's joy expressed through their Miami eatery

[Guide](#)

Högwaller Brewing

Smashing burgers and beers down by the river

[Guide](#)

The Ivy Inn Restaurant

The Vangelopoulos' unsurpassed fine dining experience

[Guide](#)

Photo by [Tom McGovern](#)

Lampo

Outstanding Neapolitan pizza, panuozzi, and well-sourced Italian
[Guide](#)

Photo by Tom McGovern

Milan

The most refined Indian restaurant experience in town

[Guide](#)

Mockingbird

Soulful Southern cuisine from decorated chef Melissa Close-Hart

[Guide](#)

Oakhart Social

Charlottesville's exemplar of the new generation of great urban restaurants

[Guide](#)

Pad Thai

Mom-and-pop serving up real homestyle Thai cooking

[Guide](#)

Petit Pois

The closest thing in Charlottesville to a French bistro

[Guide](#)

Public Fish & Oyster

A spot-on coastal oyster house, right here in Charlottesville

[Guide](#)

Revolutionary Soup

Counter-service joint with great soups, and even better sandwiches

[Guide](#)

Smyrna

Refined Anatolian cuisine applying modern techniques to local ingredients

[Guide](#)

Sultan Kebab

Real, delicious Turkish cuisine from hummus to manti to kebabs
[Guide](#)

Photo by [Tom McGovern](#)

Taste of China

Strip-mall industry favorite with faithful renditions of Szechuan cuisine
[Guide](#)

Tavola

Warm Belmont storefront serving ingredient-driven Italian fare

[Guide](#)

Ten

Sleek, serene, and transporting, Charlottesville's luxurious escape for sushi
[Guide](#)

Zocalo

*Consistently excellent Latin-infused cuisine centrally located on the
Downtown Mall*

[Guide](#)

Worth the Drive

Nearby restaurants without a Charlottesville postal address, and therefore not eligible for The Charlottesville 29, but that are still worth the drive.

BBQ Exchange

Gordonsville

World class barbeque and attention to detail from world class chef Craig Hartman

[Guide](#)

Dr. Ho's Humble Pie

North Garden

Where food is love, with more than just the best American style pizza in the area

[Guide](#)

Marigold

Keswick

At a spectacular resort, stunning outpost for celebrity chef Jean-Georges

[Guide](#)

Pippin Hill

North Garden

Superb food served in a breathtaking vineyard setting

[Guide](#)

