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 we 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 <u>finalists for Best New Restaurant.</u>)

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

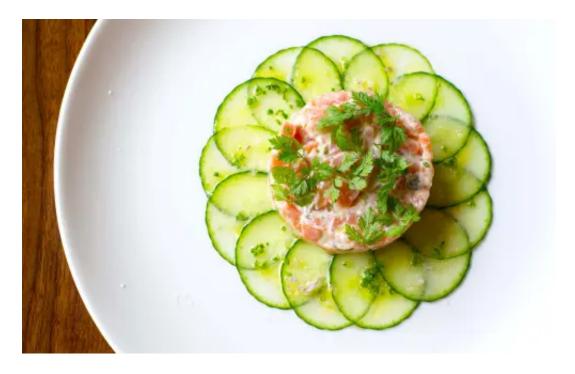


Photo by **Tom McGovern**

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

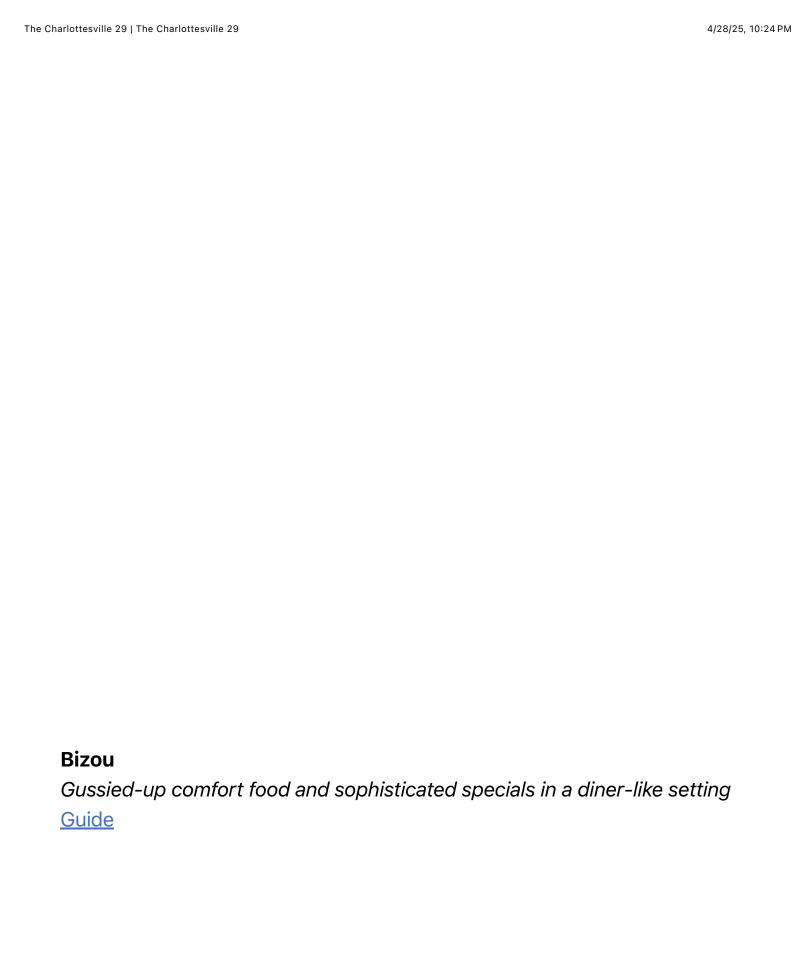
Guide

Belle

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

Birdhouse

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



Guajiros

A family's joy expressed through their Miami eatery Guide

Högwaller Brewing

Smashing burgers and beers down by the river

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

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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

he Charlottesville 29 The Charlottesville 29	4/28/25, 10:24 PM
Oakhart Social Charlottesville's exemplar of the new generation of great urban restaut	rants
<u>Guide</u>	

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

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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

Dr. Ho's Humble Pie

North Garden

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

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