



WHERE TO EAT

ANOTHER MINICON RESTAURANT GUIDE

"I've always been one to consider myself a pioneer of the palette—a restaurateur if you will. I've wined, dined, sipped and supped in some of the most epitomable bistros in the Los Angeles metropolitan area."
— Tom Waits, "Nighthawks at the Diner"

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Well, here we are again with another Minicon. And here you are, again, probably from out of town, and probably hungry. So here we go again, with another Minicon Restaurant Guide.

The purpose of this little pamphlet is to let you know what restaurants are in the area, and where they are, but I want to do more than that. You're our guests—our friends who we haven't met yet, and one of my favorite things to do is to turn my friends on to new places to eat. So, in this guide you'll not only find the places that are close by, and the places that are open late, you'll also find a couple of places that are my personal favorites, and places that are favorites of everyone in MinnStf.

The restaurants are organized into groups by location, logically enough, plus a favorites category. Their numbers correspond to the numbers on the map on the back of this Guide.

Be sure to check out "Fannish Favorites" and "At the Mall of America" (I'm not kidding with that one, really!)

Remember, it's a holiday weekend, so don't be surprised if some of these places are pretty busy. (After all, we're not the only ones with good taste.) You may want to call ahead, especially if you're taking a large group. Remember too, hours are likely to be shorter on Sunday.

Enjoy, and see you again next year!

— **JEFF** 

The opinions expressed herein are not meant to represent the opinions of MinnStf, Minicon 30, or anyone except Jeff Ahlstrom.



Produced on a Macintosh using QuarkXPress, Aldus FreeHand and a LaserWriter Pro600. Typefaces: **POPTICS ONE** (shareware \$10 from P. Lillie, 1605 E. 46th St. Ashtabula, OH 44004) and Myriad Tilt (Adobe).



INTS FOR THE CAR-LESS

- ▶ A Bloomington city bus stops right at the Radisson and goes to the Mall of America.
- ▶ A Minicon shuttle runs to the overflow hotel, the Wyndham Gardens. It has a restaurant, and there are others in walking distance.




GROCERY SHOPPERS

Byerly's (see # 24) is not the cheapest grocery store, but it is a 24-hour place and it has a huge selection. Rainbow Foods is a 24-hour warehouse food store; the nearest one is about 2¹/₂ miles east of Southdale at 140 W. 66th St.

At the Radisson

- A SHIPSIDE RESTAURANT**893-8466
Fine dining at expensive (\$10-25) prices.
- B KAFFESTUGA**893-8473
The usual moderately expensive hotel coffee shop. Good service, and a nice Scandinavian buffet.
- C EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH**835-7800
Excellent brunch by the pool, costing about \$16. At press time, reservations were no longer available, but you may be able to get in with a wait. It's worth it!
Warning—lots of mundanes about for this!

Walking distance from the Radisson

- 1 EMBERS**835-4994
▶ 7700 Normandale Rd.
Quality may not always be the greatest, but they're inexpensive, they're close, and they're open 24 hours.

- 2 TGI FRIDAY'S**831-6553
▶ 7730 Normandale Blvd. (across the parking lot toward Hwy 100).
A reasonably priced bar-restaurant.
- 3 BURGER KING**
▶ North side of hotel parking lot.
Do I need to describe it?
- 4 CHEETAH PIZZA**830-1234
▶ North side of hotel parking lot. The brown building next to the Burger King.
- 5 SUBWAY**844-0266
▶ North side of hotel parking lot (same building as Cheetah)
Subs and salads. Good fast food (and you thought there wasn't any such thing).



North frontage road of 494

(across Highway 100 on 77th and take the first right)

6 **CHILI'S GRILL & BAR**.....831-1201

▶ 7801 Normandale Blvd.

A family restaurant and bar with a Tex-Mex flavor.

7 **STUART ANDERSON'S CATTLE COMPANY**835-1225

▶ 4470 W. 78th St. Circle

Within walking distance of the Wyndham Gardens Hotel, so you might consider taking the Minicon shuttle to the Wyndham and walking to Stuart Anderson's. This one's popular with the Minicon department heads after committee meetings.

8 **GARDEN CAFE**.....831-3131

▶ 4460 W. 78th St. Circle

The hotel restaurant in the Wyndham Gardens Hotel (accessible by Minicon shuttle). The usual moderately expensive hotel restaurant, but the salad bar is recommended. Saturday & Sunday breakfast buffets, with the Sunday buffet converting to a \$14 Easter feast at 10:30 A.M. (reservations recommended).

9 **PERKINS**.....831-8855

▶ 4000 W. 78th St.

Good 24-hour family restaurant. In my humble opinion, this is the best of the three 24-hour chains (Perkins, Denny's, and Embers).

10 **FUDDRUCKERS**835-3833

▶ 3800 Minnesota Drive

Build your own hamburgers. Milkshakes, beer, and a cookie bakery.

South frontage road of 494 (off 494 and France)

11 OLIVE GARDEN831-4044

▶ 4701 W. 80th St.
Italian chain.

12 LINCOLN DEL831-0780

▶ 4401 W. 80th St.
Hearty sandwiches, breakfasts and dinners with a Kosher-deli flavor.
Scrumptious desserts. Relatively expensive, especially at breakfast.

13 RUSTY SCUPPER831-5415

▶ 301 W. 80th St.
Seafood and beef. Proper attire
required, no personal checks.



14 JOE SENSER'S GRILL & SPORTS BAR835-1191

▶ 4217 W. 80th St.
Sandwiches, dinners and lots of TVs!

15 DENNY'S835-7476

▶ 4209 W. 80th St.
Family restaurant. 24 hours.

16 TONY ROMA'S: A PLACE FOR RIBS835-3333

▶ 8301 Normandale Blvd.
Lunch and dinner. Available for take-out.

The 494 Strip

17 CHEZ DANIEL888-4447

▶ 2800 W. 80th St.

Expensive and French.

18 EDUARDO'S NATURAL PIZZA ..884-8400

▶ 2633 Southtown Dr.

Stuffed pizza. They deliver. Popular with many of the local fen.

19 APPLEBEE'S GRILL & BAR881-8845

▶ 494 and Penn (in Southtown Center)

A chain version of the neighborhood bar, with sandwiches, etc.

20 RED LOBSTER888-8102



▶ 1951 W. 80th St.

Seafood chain. Moderate prices, large selection.

21 PANNEKOEKIN HUIS884-4007

▶ 1600 W. 81st St.

Family restaurant with a Dutch motif. (Pannekoekins are LARGE stuffed pancakes.) The pea soup and the biscuits with raspberry butter are both favorites of mine.

22 DA-AFGHAN888-5824

▶ 929 W. 80th St.

The local magazines like this one. Afghani specialties like kebabs.

23 KHAN'S MONGOLIAN BARBEQUE861-7991

▶ 500 E 78th St. (N. side of 494 at Portland)

Near the top of the MinnStf top ten. Ask any of the Minneapolis fen about their favorite restaurants, and chances are that they'll mention Khan's. You choose meats and/or vegetables from a buffet, season it to your taste, and then watch while the chef stir-fries it for you. All you can eat for about \$10.

Around Southdale Mall and the Galleria

24 **BYERLY'S**831-3601

▶ 7171 France Ave. S.

These 24-hour gourmet grocery stores are a Twin Cities fixture. It's almost worth the drive just to see the store—carpeting, chandeliers, etc. If you happen to need a live lobster at 2 A.M., this is the place. Byerly's also features a very reasonably priced, 24-hour restaurant with VERY good food. A late night favorite after concerts.

25 **THE GOOD EARTH**925-1001

▶ In The Galleria (70th and France)

Closed Easter Sunday. Good vegetarian food, naturally. Popular with fans after committee meetings at the hotel.

26 **BAKER'S SQUARE**861-7471

▶ 3000 W. 66th St.

\$4-9. Lunches, dinners ... and pie!

27 **RUBY TUESDAY'S**928-9906

▶ In Southdale Mall (exterior entrance on south side)

A neighborhood bar and grill type place, good food—moderately priced.

At the Mall of America

Some of my friends think I'm crazy, but I actually like the megamall. I agree—some of it is tacky, and the whole thing is a monument to consumerism, but it still fascinates me, and I'm not sure why.

Part of it is science-fictional. How many stories have you read about the "great big thing"—giant cities in a building, two kilometer wheel-shaped space stations, ringworlds, etc?

Well, the mall isn't THAT big, but it is large. It's got trees growing in it, and streams running through it. It's not that hard (for me, anyway) to stand in the middle of it at night, looking up, and imagine that I could see the hub of the space station if only the lights weren't so bright here in the habitat ring.

Anyway, I like the place. Although I wouldn't bother with 90 per cent of the stores, there are a few that aren't like anything else in the Midwest.

And although I wouldn't bother with most of the restaurants, here are some that are definitely worth the trip (several miles east on 494, and there is a city bus). When you get there, pick up a directory booklet from one of the information booths—maybe you'll find some I haven't tried.

28 THE ALAMO BAR & GRILL854-7456

▶ 3rd floor, S.E. corner, Mall of America

A Southwestern steak house with an excellent bar. Moderately expensive, (\$8-15) but well worth it, in my opinion.

At the moment this is one of my favorite restaurants, and one of my all-time favorite bars. The specialty of the bar is hand-made Margaritas and Daquiris—no mixes used.

I'm not normally a Margarita drinker, but I LIKE their Cadillac Margarita. The bar also has a very good selection of bottled beers, including Lone Star

Also very good appetizers—the onion loaf is an experience.



29 THE CALIFORNIA CAFE854-2233

▶ 3rd floor, S.W. corner, Mall of America

Fresh, seasonal California cuisine. Expensive. I don't have personal experience of the restaurant, but it has gotten good reviews. I do know from experience that the desserts are excellent.

This is also another one of my favorite bars. The specialty here is wines and brandies, and the selection of both is impressive. The Scotch list is also very good.

30 RUBY TUESDAY'S.....854-8282

▶ 2nd floor, North side, Mall of America

A neighborhood bar and grill type place, good food—moderately priced.

31 BOOGIES DINER.....853-9800

▶ 2nd floor, South side, Mall of America

A friend often chooses this Faux Fifties diner with too-precious decor and “oldies” on the PA. But she likes the home-style meatloaf & mashed potatoes and says they do ice cream well.

Fannish Favorites



This is the part I’ve been waiting for. When I started thinking about what I would put in the Guide, I realized that there are a few restaurants to which my friends and I take all our friends from out of town. I generally find myself saying something like “I know this great place, you’ve just gotta try it!”

There are also a few places that everyone in MinnStf seems to gravitate to for dinner expeditions.

I said, at the beginning, that one of my favorite things to do is to turn my friends on to new places to eat. What I wanted to do with the Restaurant Guide was to collect all those great places so that I could turn on everyone at Minicon, too.

And so, here’s the list—from all over the Metro area, and in no particular order. I hope you like these as much as we do.

32 THE MARKET BAR-B-Q.....475-1770

▶ Highway 394, 1/2 mi. west of 494

A Minneapolis tradition for over 45 years, and my personal choice for the best ribs in town. The one in downtown is the traditional location, this one is easier to get to.

- 33 SHERLOCK'S HOME**931-0203
 ▶ 11000 Red Circle Dr., Minnetonka (Shady Oak Rd. & Crosstown)
 A brew pub and British restaurant. Half a dozen British style beers, brewed on the premises, better English food than any I had in England, and every single-malt Scotch that's available in the United States. Expensive, but well worth the trip.
- 34 KHAN'S MONGOLIAN BARBEQUE**379-3121
 ▶ 418 13th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
 This is the same folks as #23, a perennial fannish favorite. Everyone should try Khan's at least once. Some prefer Twin Cities' first Khan's—in Dinkytown near the U (and around the corner from DreamHaven Books).
- 35 THE BLACK FOREST INN**872-0812
 ▶ 1 E. 26th St., Minneapolis
 Great German food at moderate prices. Be prepared to wait in line.
- 36 BRUEGGER'S BAGEL BAKERY**927-9446
 ▶ 4412 France Ave. S., Edina
 For those of you who can't survive without your morning bagel.
- 37 LAKESIDE PALACE**927-5619
 ▶ 3236 W. Lake St., Minneapolis
 For everyone who needs a Sunday Dim Sum fix.
- 38 THE NEW RIVERSIDE CAFE**333-4814
 ▶ 329 Cedar Ave. (at Riverside), Minneapolis
 The GeoMagnetic Center of the Universe, plus good vegetarian food and live music.
- 39 ODAA ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT**338-4459
 ▶ 408 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis
 How many African restaurants do you know of? You get to eat your plate!





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to 34

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