

## **Restaurants and Bars**

The following is a list of some of the eateries and drinkeries in the Asheville area that I recommend. There are many more to choose from! Browse on line if these do not suit your needs or desires. Folks at the Grove Park Inn will help you find these places and even call a cab for you. [Cab fare downtown should be less than \$10 one way, with no extra charge for extra passengers.] You should know that all restaurants and bars in North Carolina ban smoking inside. Apparently we encourage you to *buy* our tobacco to keep our state solvent, but *use* it in your own town.

### **Bars**

I know the link said “Restaurants and Bars,” but first things first! One thing that you should know is that Asheville has been voted “Beer City USA” for the past two years by some unscientific poll. But it really is an amazing beer town. There are several unique and really wonderful breweries located in the area, many with a tasting room where you can sample the beer right where it is brewed. Any of these are fun gathering spots.

### **Tasting Rooms [craft beer]**

Tasting rooms are not fancy. They usually serve only the beers brewed on site, mostly no wine, no liquor, and no food. The beer is *exquisite* and the company is usually very good—especially if you are there! They are all very inexpensive. \$3 or \$4 will get a pint of some of the best beer you have ever had. There are ten such places in town, but these are my favorites.

### **Dirty Jack’s**

The real name of the establishment is “Green Man Brewing,” but no one calls it that. The reason is that it brews the beer for a bar called “Jack of the Woods” [see below] just a few blocks away. The main bartender is Sam [from England]. There is almost always soccer, rugby, Irish football, cricket, or some other UK sport on the TVs. They have what the Brits call “real ale.” I kid you not. It is drawn by hand-pump directly from the cask without extra carbonation. Their IPA is outstanding. If you are lucky, it will be the cask ale of the day. They vary their beers seasonally. Right now they have a special high-gravity beer [a hefty 10%!] called “the Truth.” Just give me some truth, man. There is a cool bar, 4 or 5 tables, and a few benches and chairs outside. Smoking is permitted outside. Amazing beers!

### **The Wedge**

This is located in the River Arts district, where a bunch of old warehouses and factories have been reappropriated as artists’ studios. There are a great number of galleries and studios downtown and in this area. The Wedge makes a fine IPA, a porter that has a bit too much maple for me, but maybe not for you, and a high-gravity beer they call “Golem,” which is a Belgian

style white beer that is very strong. The tasting room itself is tiny. There are a few stools inside. There are benches and tables on the loading dock of the building and a few more tables in a grassy area nearby. Smoking is banned throughout. There is a scenic view of the gravel parking lot and the train tracks, but it is a very cool, very popular hangout. Amazing beers!

## **Bars**

### **Battery Park Champagne Bar and Book Exchange**

1 Battle Square , (828) 252-0020—across the street from the Grove Arcade downtown

Any place that lets you barter books for booze is philosopher-friendly. This is a great wine bar. They have a very nice selection of wines and nibbles in a pleasant setting surrounded by books.

### **Santé**

1 Page Ave, (828) 254-8188 In the Grove Arcade downtown

An good wine bar. An ok selection of wines and nibbles. Less than a block from the wine bar listed above across the street.

### **5 Walnut Wine Bar**

5 W Walnut St, (828) 505-7471 downtown

I have not been to this wine bar yet, but I hear it is waycool. There are windows opening on the street just above street level. Close to everything downtown. I hear that the wines are good. I expect a full report!

### **Sky Bar**

18 Battery Park Avenue, (828) 225-6998, near the flat iron building downtown

I have not been here, but there is unanimous endorsement from folks who have that this is amazing. The idea is that the bar is spread over several balconies way up in the air in a tall building downtown. Full bar. Great view of the mountains.

## **Cheap or Mid-Range Restaurants [No particular order]**

### **Burgermeister's**

(828) 225-2920

West Asheville-697 Haywood Rd.

Fantastic variety of original burgers served with a mix of fried sweet potatoes and potatoes, full bar, limited outside seating on the parking lot, but why would you do that? Good beers, great burgers—including the house made veggie burger that varies daily. Inexpensive and very good.

### **Rosetta's Kitchen**

116 North Lexington Ave., downtown (828) 232-0738

Freaky, funky, vegan friendly, excellent inexpensive veggie food, beers wines, open very late  
→ 3:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights

### **Asheville Pizza and Brewing Co.**

Brew Pub & pizzeria, sandwiches, bar food. Some of the best craft beer in town but this is their restaurant, pretty good inexpensive pizza and bar food. There are two locations. The original one, on Merrimon Avenue very near near UNCA, shows second run movies at \$3. The Downtown one has no movies, but more outside seating. Great lunch pizza buffet. Easily accessible for lunch from campus. Amazing beers! My mail is delivered here and I have my check deposited to their account.

675 Merrimon Ave. (828) 254-5339

Also another location downtown on Coxe Avenue near the bus terminal

### **Zen Sushi**

(828) 225-6033

North Asheville-640 Merrimon Avenue near UNCA

The sushi and sashimi are quite good, and better than the other Japanese dishes. Not cheap, but very good and easily accessible for lunch from campus

### **Salsas**

Mexican/Caribbean blend

(828) 252-9805

Downtown-6 Patton Ave

Funky, very good, enormous servings, not expensive. Limited outside seating, always crowded.

### **City Bakery & Café**

(828) 252-4426

Downtown-60 Biltmore Avenue

. Great assortment of breads and nice pastries. Fine place for light breakfast.

### **Jack of the Wood**

828-252-5445

Downtown-Located below the Laughing Seed Restaurant at 95 Patton Avenue. Handcrafted beers and wine & spirits. The beer is made at "Dirty Jack's"—one of the best breweries in town. Food is mediocre at best. However upstairs there is a nice vegetarian restaurant, *The Laughing Seed*.

### **Fiore's Cottonwood Ristorante Toscana**

(828) 281-0710

Downtown-122 College St.

Pretty good Italian food. Reasonably priced and pretty good. The appetizer platter is fine! Especially reasonable wine list. Great for mid-range food.

### **Mela**

One of the 3 Indian Restaurants in town, my favorite.

(828) 225-8880

Downtown 70 Lexington Avenue

Serving: Lunch / Dinner Alcohol: Full Bar very nice lunch buffet daily

### **Barley's Taproom**

828-255-0504

Downtown-42 Biltmore Avenue, the 8,000 square foot space is in the heart of the arts and entertainment district. Many interesting beers on tap, fairly good pizza. If you order by the slice, be sure you know that the slices are enormous.

### **Marco's Pizzeria**

828-285-0709

North Asheville-946 Merrimon Avenue-(about 1 mile north of campus)-

continues the family business started in 1933 of cooking unparalleled New York-style pizza. In addition to pizza, Marco's offers a full menu of Italian favorites including salads, pastas, sandwiches, calzones, and strombolis. This is the best pizza in town. The real deal NY style pizza. Marco is a huge Yankees fan. One of our favorite casual dining places.

### **12 Bones**

828-253-4499

Downtown-5 Riverside Drive

Lunch only. Fantastic ribs, pulled pork, chicken, etc. Located in the River Arts District of Asheville, NC. Casual to the point of being laid-back, we serve up a tasty lunch/early dinner with take-out service

available. The menu features a range of tasty smoked meats with a wide-ranging array of sides.

Everything is fresh and we smoke our meats for a long, slow lingering time before we deliver them to you. Monday through Friday 11am to 4pm. President Obama ate here both times he came to town! Be warned that the line to get in is sometimes more than half an hour long.

### **Tupelo Honey Café**

828-255-4404

Downtown-12 College Street

Southern Home Cookin' With an Uptown Twist. *Very pleasant. Nice, funky, great for any meal. Mid-range bistro prices.*

### **The Chocolate Fetish**

Chocolate to die for! One of the best anywhere. To give you some idea how good it is, my friends in Paris are always delighted when I bring chocolate from here! Amazing truffles, dipped dried fruits, etc.

258-2353

36 Haywood Street

## **Upscale Dining**

There are many fine restaurants in Asheville! The ones in the conference hotel are really exceptional and you can read about them in your room. I have described a few of our favorites, and I am happy to discuss others you may hear about—just ask!

### **Table**

- 48 college st.

**ph:** 828.254.8980

<http://tableasheville.com/>

Amazing wonderful to die for great fantastic etc. Menu changes often, tiny, busy, reservations necessary.

## **Zambra**

(828) 232-1060

Downtown-85 Walnut St.

<http://www.zambratapas.com/menu.html>

Spanish Tapas and wine bar. This is not cheap, but it is a wonderful place to spend an evening sipping wine and eating little dish after little dish. Excellent quality, though always busy. Huge restaurant, no reservations. Fairly expensive if you order several of the tapas. Nice wines.

## **Bouchon French Bistro**

(828) 350-1140

Downtown-62. N. Lexington

<http://ashevillebouchon.com/>

great small menu, mid-range upscale bistro—a wonderful place! Some nights they have moules / frites specials! [mussels and fries] Outstanding! Small, intimate, run by a real character, chef Michel.

## **Limones**

(828)252-2327

<http://limonesrestaurant.com/>

Downtown--13 Eagle Street

provides an inspirational mix of Mexican-Californian cuisine

Dress: nice casual. Outstanding food and service, but often loud. . Wine & beer and cocktails. Reservations accepted and necessary—it's always full. One of my favorite upscale restaurants in town.

## **The Admiral**

400 Haywood Road [West Asheville]

For reservations,  
please call before 5pm  
(828) 252-2541

No reservations by email

<http://www.theadmiralinc.com/menu.html>

This place is SO Asheville! Outside there will be freaks and punks smoking and drinking \$2 cans of cheap beer. Inside delights await! It caters to all. There is no pretense whatsoever here—hardly any tense! I love it. There are brilliant selections of small plates and big plates, and a small but nice wine selection. It is truly amazing food and offers a cuisine that is completely dissonant with the looks of the place.