

# WILL TRAVEL FOR Food

**BY LAYLA KHOURY -HANOLD THESE FIVE CITIES ARE DINING DESTINATIONS FOR BEST-IN-CLASS EATS.**

Virginia's food scene reflects the rich agricultural history that generations of farmers and artisans have preserved, as well as the vibrant and diverse cultures of those who have made these food hubs home. What makes dining in the Commonwealth so exciting is the way that restaurants are doubling down on these foodways and interpreting them in dishes both modern and traditional, giving Virginia towns distinct dining calling cards. From Pakistani-Appalachian food truck fare to Southern comfort classics, these five delicious destinations are worth the trip.

DINOSAUR DISCOVERY TRAIL COURTESY OF THE VACATION CHANNEL / BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK COURTESY OF SVAKANTH VEERAMANI / HISTORIC LANDMARKS  
MICHAEL LAVIN / MASSANUTTEN RESORT TRIPING / SARAH HAUSER / SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE PARK / LINDSEY / LOVEWORK / DANNE / COBBE

GREG POWERS

### *Abingdon: Appalachian Spirit*

Located in the Blue Ridge Highlands of the Appalachian Mountains, Abingdon has a deep connection with the land with its agricultural history and the Creeper Trail's outdoor recreation. The laid-back mountain town's creative spirit is anchored by downtown's historic Barter Theatre and reflected in Appalachian foodways, in which seasonal, resourceful cooking is echoed on local restaurant menus.

**Abingdon Farmers Market:** Robust year-round market with produce and provisions from local farmers and purveyors.

**White Birch Kitchen & Juice Bar:** Vibrant juice bar and café serving locally sourced, scratch-made breakfast and lunch on historic Main Street.

**Snow's Fine Meats & Provisions:** Whole animal butcher shop offering custom cuts and pantry provisions, plus butchery and cooking classes.

**The Pakalachian:** Food truck blending its co-owners' Southwestern Virginia and Pakistani heritages.

**Harvest Table:** Casually elegant farm-to-table restaurant where heirloom crops are the star of seasonal plates.

**Sarah Jean's Eatery:** A casual spot for clever spins on homey Southern and Appalachian fare.

### *Falls Church: Global Flavors*

In Falls Church, the restaurant experience is the food, and eating your way through town is a gustatory, globetrotting extravaganza. You can find a stellar bowl of Vietnamese pho as easily as Peruvian rotisserie chicken, reflecting the diverse cultures and vibrant cuisines of the people who call Falls Church home. Hidden gems include the best sushi in town unassumingly located next to a carpet cleaning service and sitting across the street from a

Lebanese halal butcher shop.

**Taco Bamba:** Logic-defying tacos from Falls Church native chef Victor Albisu.

**Padaek:** A Lao and Thai restaurant at Seven Corners Center showcasing unabashedly spicy, bright and funky flavors.

**Eden Center:** Vietnamese shopping center chockful of restaurants. Hit up **Huong Viet Restaurant, Rice Paper** or **Hai Dong**.

**Four Sisters:** Stalwart family-owned Vietnamese restaurant lauded for its crisp spring rolls.

**Peking Gourmet Inn:** Local institution specializing in Peking duck, carved tableside. Dumplings are top-notch, too.

**Takumi:** Intimate yet unpretentious sushi bar serving some of the most pristine fish in the D.C. area.

