

Foodies' local faves

Bittersweet's chai lattes

Chai tea lattes. My search for the perfect blend of spice, sweet, and milk has been a long journey. But at Bittersweet, I found it. After an admittedly overpriced cup of their chai tea, I have a feeling of bliss unlike anything I've felt. The chai is never too bitter but never overly sweet—just like the name. Everytime I'm in the downtown Louisville area, I make a stop at Bittersweet to enjoy their always stocked oat milk, beautifully calm interior, and perfect chai. No matter how overpriced their drinks are, Bittersweet will always be my go-to place for an amazing cup of tea.

— Layla East

PJ's pancakes

My ideal Thursday morning breakfast: pancakes from PJ's Diner with homemade jam and warm syrup. It really can't get better than that. The pancakes (or hotcakes, according to their menu) are fluffy and filling, but the key to unlocking the best breakfast experience is the jam. It's just not the same without it. The freshness of whichever flavor they have that day compliments the pancakes and adds another layer of sweetness to make your mouth water. If you really want to get specific, you have to switch off between syrup and jam every few bites, but maybe it's just me. And if you're more of a savory breakfast person, you can't go wrong with a to-go burrito and drink for only \$6!

— Kate Muldoon

Organic Sandwich Company's chicken pesto sandwich

Nothing's better than a sandwich that tastes incredible, but also makes you feel good. The chicken pesto sandwich from the Organic Sandwich Company is so tasty, I have to eat it at least twice a week. It's just the right size where you're satisfied, but you don't feel gross. The best part is the community. I go there so often that all of the workers remember my order. Lunch is much more enjoyable when it's made by someone who's friendly and cares. The sandwich has the perfect balance in every bite, and the fluffy bread is the best part. I always go with my best friend, making it practically a tradition.

Some may say it's too expensive, but a meal made with such healthy ingredients is definitely worth it.

— Arianna Bergman

Giovannitti Coffee Roasters

We all search for the perfect latte or mocha. Starbucks has fun, elaborate drinks, but it's not the best. Ziggi's has even more elaborate drinks and for a better price, but they use too much milk... And of course, there's Bittersweet. Everyone's "favorite" coffee shop in Louisville. I get the "vibe" is "really cool," but in reality, the coffee is overpriced and unsatisfying. It's all bitter and no sweet. Halfway down the block, in the old State Mercantile building, sits a quiet, undervalued coffee shop named Giovannitti Coffee Roasters. Now, this place has the best coffee in Louisville. A 24 oz. mocha costs a mere five dollars, whereas a 12 oz. mocha at Bittersweet is the same price. Double the amount of the coffee for the same price sounds pretty good to me.

— Maeby Aleo

Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse

Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse is my favorite local restaurant. With Persian art decoration, a rose surrounded patio, and trickling fountains, Boulder Teahouse is the perfect place to start my weekend. Beside its unique and relaxing atmosphere, the teahouse is known for its value of global friendship through serving an internationally influenced menu. My favorite food from the menu is the hummus plate. It's more than an appetizer, it's a versatile plate that can be served at all meals. And if you are trying to avoid caffeine on the weekend, they have the best ever Italian soda.

— Minh Anh Le

Pica's chicken tacos

The best meal in downtown Louisville is easily chicken tacos from Pica's. Perfectly cooked chicken and fresh salsa on a delicious tortilla creates a tasty dish. Its simplicity only adds to its flawlessness. Its perfect combination of flavors can't be beat. But it's not just the delicious food that makes Pica's my favorite spot downtown. The well decorated, adorable interior and perfect location make it even more amazing. Anytime I'm downtown and searching for food, Pica's is my go-to spot, and I can guarantee that I'm ordering the chicken tacos. No matter the day, time, or weather, it's always the ideal meal.

— Zoey Perrine