

# NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



## Top Off Your Trip with Original Dining Experiences in Rockford, Illinois

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ROCKFORD, IL** — Rockford's Real, Original experiences don't stop with great cultural and family-friendly attractions. With a population of more than 150,000 people from various ethnic backgrounds, Rockford appreciates food of all varieties! These are just a few examples of the multitude of dining options Rockford has to offer. For a complete list, visit [www.gorockford.com](http://www.gorockford.com).

#### American

From hamburgers to hot dogs, fast food to slow and elegant cuisine, Rockford's got a classic American dish that's just what you're looking for. Whether your tastes are simple, sophisticated or tend toward something in between, the cooks of the Rockford area know how to satisfy your appetite. Try:

- **kiki B's**, 1641 N. Alpine Rd., Rockford, Ill.  
Located in the upper level of the Edgebrook Center, kiki B's features a contemporary dining area with skylights, large round windows and a beautiful granite bar. Inspired by the great neighborhood restaurants in Chicago, this restaurant and bar offers some American bar food favorites, as well as tasty rustic cooking in the styles of France, Italy and Spain. The lively, spirited atmosphere provides the perfect venue for a fun evening out with the girls or a special night with your sweetheart. Make a day of it by visiting the many unique shops and restaurants at the Edgebrook Center. Visit [edgebrookshops.com](http://edgebrookshops.com) for a directory of stores!  
**Contact:** 815.986.0338, [www.kikibs.com](http://www.kikibs.com)

#### Asian & Indian

Looking for a more exotic culinary experience? Whether it's Japanese, Indian, Laotian, Thai or Chinese, Rockford's selection of Asian restaurants is sure to curb your craving for a taste of the Far East! Try:

- **Kuma's Asian Bistro**, 420 E. State St., Rockford, Ill.  
It's all about the incredible food at Kuma's, with a tasty collection of contemporary Asian dishes inspired by Thai, Korean, Japanese and Chinese cuisine. From teriyaki bowls to Asian gumbo, SushiYami to Shanghai angel hair pasta, there's something for every palate on Kuma's pan-Asian menu. With dining space located within an historic building in downtown Rockford, this upscale restaurant features simple, modern décor that provides a comfortably elegant dining experience for that special night out.  
**Contact:** 815.490.1000, [info@kumas-asian-bistro.com](mailto:info@kumas-asian-bistro.com), [www.kumas-asian-bistro.com](http://www.kumas-asian-bistro.com)

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### **Breakfast & Brunch**

Breakfast really is the most important meal of the day. Order farm-fresh eggs, any style. Savor buttery Swedish pancakes with imported lingonberries. And if you're here on Sunday, don't miss our fabulous Sunday brunches! Try:

- **Stockholm Inn**, 2420 Charles St., Rockford, Ill.  
Popular with both locals and visitors, the Stockholm Inn's home-like décor and Scandinavian menu reflects Rockford's close ties to its Swedish heritage. Providing some of the best dining values in town, the Stockholm Inn serves a hearty combination of Swedish and American dishes. Not sure what to try? The Stockholm Inn is famous for its delicious Swedish pancakes with lingonberries! While you're there, make sure to stop in the gift shop to browse the selection of unique Scandinavian gifts, imported foods and bakery items prepared right at the restaurant.  
**Contact:** 815.397.3534, [www.thestockholminn.com](http://www.thestockholminn.com)

### **Brew Pub**

Ready to kick back with a cold brew and some pub grub? Rockford's got just the place for you to lean back and put up your feet! Try:

- **Carlyle Brewing Company**, 215 E. State St., Rockford, Ill.  
Rockford's premier microbrewery is the perfect spot for some pub grub and a pint of ale or lager brewed right on site. This European-style ale house is a great spot to kick back and spend the evening just hanging out with your favorite people. Ten to 12 styles of ales or lagers are on tap at any time and are chosen from more than 30 styles of beer brewed on site throughout the year. Beer lovers and novice beer drinkers alike will enjoy the sampler tray of current beers, along with sandwiches, bratwursts, pretzels or pizza. Fine dining a little too "hoity-toity" for your tastes? Forget the salad forks and soup spoons and chill out with a cold brew and enjoy some great food you can eat with your hands!  
**Contact:** 815.963.2739, [www.carlylebrewing.com](http://www.carlylebrewing.com)

### **Burgers/Hot Dogs**

There's nothing like a fat, juicy burger or a hot dog with all the fixings! If you're looking for hearty, home-style cooking, Rockford's Midwestern style is sure to hit the spot. Try:

- **Kegel's Harley Diner**, 7125 Harrison Ave., Rockford, Ill.  
This vintage-style chrome-and-neon diner is attached to the world's oldest family-owned Harley-Davidson dealership. Kegel's "All-American Diner" serves hearty biker food for breakfast and lunch daily – try the Route 66 zesty homemade chili. Even if you're not into motorcycles, you'll enjoy the original, two-level showroom with Harley apparel and gear!  
**Contact:** 815.332.7200, [kegelmotorcycles.com](http://kegelmotorcycles.com)

### **Coffee Shops & Team Rooms**

Dining in the Rockford Region isn't limited to hearty meals. Revel in the flavor of a gourmet cup of coffee, sip a soothing cup of tea or indulge in handmade chocolate. Try:

- **Chocolat by Daniel**, 211 E. State St., Rockford, Ill.  
Owner and chocolatier Daniel Nelson is a graduate of Ecole Chocolat Professional School of Chocolate Arts in Vancouver, B.C., and Valrhona's L'Ecole Du Grand Chocolat in France. He handcrafts the wide assortment of high-quality chocolates found at his shop, including European-style truffles, gourmet chocolates, specialty chocolates and desserts, all made from the highest quality raw Belgian, French, Swiss and Venezuelan chocolate. But there's more to Daniel's shop than his fine quality chocolate pieces and desserts – try a chocolate fondue plate, a piping hot mug of rich hot chocolate or a soothing cup of hot tea.  
**Contact:** 815.969.7990, [www.chocolatbydaniel.com](http://www.chocolatbydaniel.com)

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### **Ethnic**

There's no language barrier to keep you from enjoying an amazing international meal during your visit to the Rockford Region. From the romance of France to the sausages of Germany, you'll be sure to fill up at any of these ethnic eateries. Try:

- **Der Rathskeller German Restaurant & Bar**, 1132 Auburn St., Rockford, Ill.  
Old-world Germany meets the present-day Midwest at Der Rathskeller, a Rockford Region favorite for authentic German dishes and beers since 1931. Sit at the bar and enjoy a traditional family-style German meal and a pint of beer, or walk down a flight of stairs into a dining area that transports diners straight into old-world Germany, with low lighting, sturdy wooden tables and chairs, and artwork and photos depicting German people and places. The cozy, familiar atmosphere and friendly staff provide the perfect setting for an intimate dinner. Didn't get enough great food at dinner? Shop for German meats, cheeses and chocolates in the bar area!  
**Contact:** 815.963.2922

### **Fast Food**

Chain restaurants with their greasy burgers and boring menus are a dime a dozen. Dine in, drive up or carry out at some of Rockford's locally owned fast food favorites. Try:

- **Beef-A-Roo, with seven locations in the Rockford Region**  
Don't let the name throw you – Beef-A-Roo is a Rockford Region favorite for fast food. This locally owned "chain" has seven themed locations in the region, including oldies Rock 'N Roll, fire station, warehouse and lodge. You'll find all of your fast food favorites, but make sure to try some local favorites, like Beef-A-Roo's famous cheese fries or shakes.  
**Contact:** Visit [beefaroo.com](http://beefaroo.com) for a list of locations

### **Fine Dining**

You don't have to travel to big cities like Chicago or Madison and stress over heavy traffic and expensive parking to find fine dining. You'll be amazed and delighted at the innovative cuisine in select restaurants in the Rockford Region. Big-city food critics even say it's worth a special trip. Try:

- **Josef of Barbados Restaurant & Oyster Bar**, 6860 Spring Creek Rd., Rockford, Ill.  
Renowned Austrian chef Josef Schwaiger offers fine continental dining inspired by Barbados, featuring a seafood and oyster bar with more than 15 offerings nightly and Euro-style preparations of duck, rack of lamb and aged beef. The fine dining experience doesn't stop with the food, however. Art created by local and international artists is displayed throughout the restaurant, complementing the chef's exquisitely prepared meals. But remember, at Josef's formality is a state of mind, so patrons are welcome to come in casual attire despite the formal ambiance of the restaurant.  
**Contact:** 815.282.3400, [dine@josefbarbados.com](mailto:dine@josefbarbados.com), [www.josefbarbados.com](http://www.josefbarbados.com)

### **Italian**

Today's Rockford Region still reflects the cuisine and culture of their early Italian immigrants, with many of their descendents serving up the best in Italian dishes today. Try:

- **Lino's**, 5611 E. State St., Rockford, Ill.  
Looking for that classic dining experience at a traditional Italian restaurant? Look no further than Lino's, a long-standing Rockford Italian eatery. The experience begins right as you pull into the parking lot and catch sight of a scene right out of Venice with an exterior designed to look like several Venetian buildings put together. The feeling that you've walked straight into Italy continues as you step into the restaurant and view the breathtaking traditional décor. The menu offers most Italian staples, but if you talk to any local Rockfordian, they'll almost always recommend the pizza!  
**Contact:** 815.397.2077

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### **Tapas**

Enjoy fine dining on a smaller scale with a tapas-style meal that allows you to fill your tummy without emptying your wallet. Try:

- **Brio Restaurant & Wine Bar**, 515 E. State St., Rockford, Ill.  
With architecture dating from 1888 coupled with the restaurant's modern interior design, Brio offers an intimate dining experience with an artsy, big city feel – without the big city hassle! From its cozy wine bar with a beautiful stone fireplace to its whimsical dining room, Brio sets the perfect mood for a romantic evening away from home. The ever-popular tapas-inspired menu allows diners to sample more high-end entrée items at a lower cost. Don't forget to stop in the bathrooms themed Heaven and Hell – they won third place in the America's Best Restroom contest in 2008, sponsored by Cintas Corp.  
**Contact:** 815.968.9463, [www.briorockford.com](http://www.briorockford.com)

Rockford, IL, is located approximately 60 minutes west of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport off Interstate 90. For information on accommodations and things to do, visit [www.gorockford.com](http://www.gorockford.com). RACVB is a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 to champion efforts to promote the Rockford Region as an overnight visitor destination. The RACVB adds wealth to the region's economy by investing in marketing programs that grow tourism.

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Mika Doyle, RACVB Communications Coordinator

Phone: 815.489.1678

Email: [mdoyle@gorockford.com](mailto:mdoyle@gorockford.com)

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