Summer is officially here, and the allure of patio dining becomes irresistible! Whether you’re planning a family outing, a romantic date night, or a casual hangout with friends, or your dog, Rockford's diverse dining scene has something for everyone. Here’s your guide to the best patio dining spots in the Rockford region this summer season!

**Dining Outside for Date Night**

* **Abreo** For a sophisticated evening out, Abreo’s patio in the heart of downtown Rockford is an excellent choice. The intimate setting, combined with a creative and ever-evolving menu, ensures a memorable dining experience. Share small plates and sip on craft cocktails under the twinkling lights.
* **Franchesco’s Ristorante** Franchesco’s offers an elegant outdoor dining space, perfect for a romantic night out. With a menu that features fine Italian cuisine and an extensive wine list, you’re set for a delightful evening. The serene patio ambiance adds to the romantic vibe.
* **The Top Rooftop Bar & Lounge.** Perched atop the Embassy Suites in Rockford, IL, **The Top** offers an unparalleled dining experience that combines exquisite cuisine with breathtaking views. This rooftop restaurant is a gem, providing a sophisticated ambiance perfect for any occasion. Don’t forget to grab a selfie with your date. The Top offers the best views in Rockford!
* **Hidden Creek Estates.** Escape to the tranquil beauty of Hidden Creek Estates for an unforgettable outdoor dining experience. Nestled amidst lush landscapes, our estate offers a serene setting where you can savor delicious, locally-inspired dishes under the open sky. Instagrammable worthy!
* **Sisters Thai Café.** Experience the vibrant flavors of Thailand in the heart of downtown Rockford! Sisters Thai offers a charming outdoor patio to enjoy authentic Thai cuisine surrounded by the fresh air and warm ambiance. Perfect for date night.

**Casual Patio Hangouts with Friends**

* **Prairie Street Brewing Co.** Located along the Rock River, Prairie Street Brewing Co. offers a fantastic setting for families. Their spacious patio is perfect for kids to move around, and they have a kid-friendly menu featuring favorites like mac 'n' cheese and chicken tenders. Parents can enjoy their house-brewed beers while watching boats pass by on the river.
* **The Norwegian** The Norwegian’s patio is a trendy spot for brunch or dinner with friends. Known for its Scandinavian-inspired dishes and vibrant atmosphere, it’s a great place to relax and catch up. Don’t miss their craft cocktails and locally sourced menu items.
* **Lucha Cantina** Situated in the heart of Edgebrook boutique shops, Lucha Cantina offers a mix of Mexican and American dishes alongside a variety of house made salsas and their delicious queso dip. Their quiet patio is tucked away behind lush trees offering a chill atmosphere after a long work week.
* **Rockford City Market** While not a traditional restaurant, the Rockford City Market is a must-visit for outdoor dining with friends. Open on Fridays during the summer, the market features numerous food vendors, live music, and a lively crowd. Grab some street food and enjoy the festive outdoor setting.
* **Fresco at the Gardens.** Nestled within the beautiful Anderson Japanese Gardens, Fresco’s patio offers a serene and picturesque setting for enjoying delicious, fresh cuisine. It’s the perfect spot to catch-up with friends!
* **Pig Minds Brewery.** Enjoy craft beers and delicious vegan fare at Pig Minds Brewery in Loves Park. Its spacious outdoor patio is the perfect place to relax and savor unique brews in a laid-back atmosphere.
* **DC Estate Winery** With a beautiful outdoor pavilion and welcoming tasting room, DC Estate is the perfect spot to celebrate a remarkable special event or just spend a relaxing weekend afternoon. You can enjoy delicious wine, flatbreads, or charcuterie boards while savoring the views of the tranquil pond and vineyard.
* **Alchemy at Aldeen.** Overlooking the lush greens of Aldeen Golf Club, Aldeen’s outdoor patio provides a serene and picturesque setting for enjoying exquisite cuisine and refreshing drinks. Whether it's a leisurely lunch, a sunset dinner, or weekend brunch, Alchemy's outdoor dining offers the perfect blend of gourmet food and natural beauty – perfect for girlfriends and even families.

**Dining Outside with Your Dog**

* **The Olympic Tavern.** The Olympic Tavern’s outdoor seating area is perfect for dog owners. With a menu full of comfort food and an extensive beer list, it’s a popular spot for lunch or dinner with your furry friend. The patio is shaded and provides water bowls to keep your pup hydrated.
* **Ernies Midtown Pub.** Enjoy a meal with your furry companions at Ernie's Midtown Pub's pet-friendly outdoor dining area. Nestled in Midtown, its patio welcomes dogs to join you while you savor delicious pub grub and refreshing drinks.
* **Tad’s on the Rock.** Enjoy unique riverfront dining, a tiki bar, amazing fish fry and more at Tad’s on the Rock! Kids and pets are welcome to watch boats drive by as you soak in the sun and enjoy a delicious meal on the beautiful Rock River.

**New Outdoor Dining Options**

* **Plume Restaurant.** Plume is Rockford’s newest restaurant in the North End. It boasts a large outdoor patio for guests, along with an outside spritz bar for light, refreshing cocktails, perfect for summer nights.
* **The Goat Pub & Grill.** The Goat, also located in the North End, recently announced it now has outdoor patio dining. Enjoy a cold beer and good food while soaking in some sun at The Goat.

Soak in the sun this summer while you dine on delicious cuisine! For a full list of Rockford region restaurants, visit www.gorockford.com.