

HEIDI BILLOTTO'S 2018 RESTAURANT GUIDE

BY CHARLOTTE CULINARY EXPERT HEIDI BILLOTTO

150+ Restaurants Worth Your While

So pleased to continue a tradition I started with the team at Charlotte Living in our Winter Food Issue 2017. It is my pleasure to present to you, my *2018 Restaurant Guide: 150+ Restaurants Worth Your While*.

As is always the case with my restaurant articles and reviews, this listing is not tied to advertising in any way, and restaurants are compiled in groups based on location.

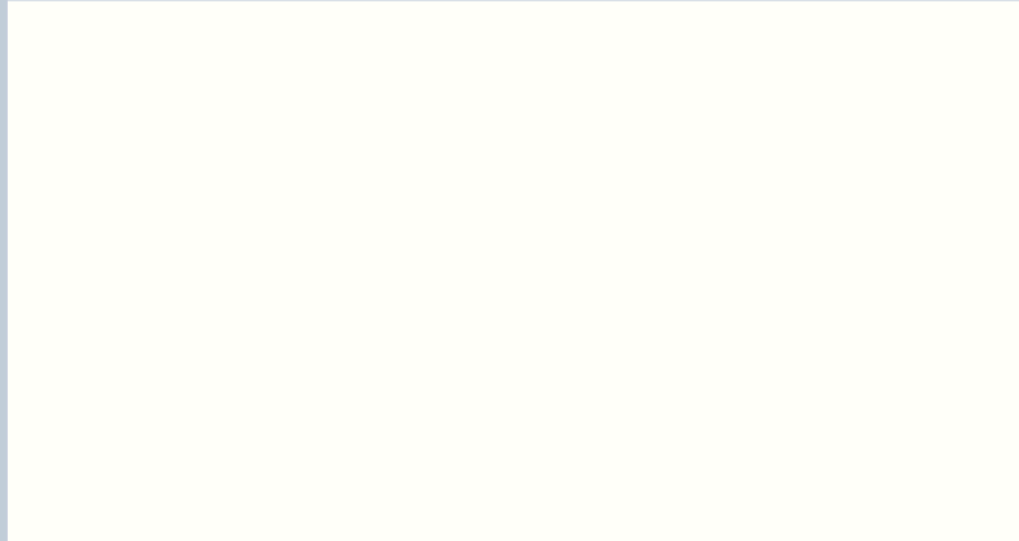
I have always prided myself on presenting positive "go-eat-here-now" reviews to my readers. It has been my philosophy since the beginning, that there is not much point in spending time and space telling readers where not to go to allocate their dining dollars.

These are all restaurants where I have enjoyed a dining experience and then shared the same via these pages, my blog, a television appearance or social media posts. The photos are all of chefs and members of Charlotte's culinary community you need to know, people who are doing something new or outside of their regular box. Talented people, making a difference in what and how we dine out for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

No good, better, best here – all are great places worth your time and attention to try. Enjoy and remember to #TellThemHeidiSentYou – Cheers!

–Heidi Bilotto

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Ready on Five, Four, Three, Two, One....

That's how each round of the clever Sliced competition starts each month in the Salud Cooking School at Whole Foods Market in the SouthPark area. Charlotte area chefs and sous chefs go head to head in three rounds of friendly competition packed into one fun-filled and flavorful evening! The team at Salud, is pictured here: from left, Salud Cooking School Director, Mara Norris, with a mystery basket and her team, cooking instructors Whitney Davis and Michael Harrington.

As spectators watch the action, and get a fun close up and personal view of how teams of Charlotte chefs approach each basket, Mara, Whitney and Michael, run constant color commentary explaining technique and talking about ingredients. Heidi Billotto is on hand as well each month to taste and serve as the official guest judge. After each round is completed, the audience gets to taste each dish and also votes for their favorites based on taste, creativity and presentation; and in the end a winner is crowned. Tons of fun – check it out soon. Sliced usually takes place on the last Monday of each month – exact dates appear in the Salud Cooking School schedule available at WholeFoodsMarket.com – click on the Charlotte store location and then on the link to Salud Cooking School to confirm date and make your reservations.

EAST

INDIAN TRAIL

Sabor Latin Street Grill – *Tacos* – 14039 E. Independence Blvd., Indian Trail, NC 28079,

MONROE

The Stone Table – *American, Farm to Fork* – 101 W. Franklin Street, Monroe, NC 28112, 704.225.7675, stonetablemonroe.com

MONROE RD.

SOUTH

BALLANTYNE

Oggi Ristorante Italiano – *Italian American, Mediterranean* – 16646 Hawfield Way Dr., Charlotte, NC 28277, 704.716.9400, oggicharlotte.com

The Lights Juicery & Café – *Locally Sourced, Crafted with Love* – 16631 Lancaster Hwy., Charlotte, NC 28277, 980.207.0871, thelightsjuicery.com

Midwood Smokehouse – *Wood Smoked, Barbecue* – 12410 Johnston Rd., Charlotte, NC 28277, 980.430.1086, midwoodsmokehouse.com/locations/locations_charlotte_columbia.html

Quik Shop – *Fried Chicken* – 11924 Elm Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704.543.1338, quikshoppe.com/?n=Products/index&t=0&sp=10

Sugar Donuts – *Donuts* – 11914 Elm Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277, 980.214.1566, sugardonuts.net/

The Big View Diner – *American, Greek, Bakery* – 16637 Lancaster Hwy, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704.544.0313, bigviewrestaurant.com

The Gallery Restaurant – *Continental, Farm to Fork* – 10000 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704.248.4100, theballantynehotel.com

PARK ROAD

Burtons Grill – *Burgers, American Cuisine* – 1601 E Woodlawn Rd. A, Charlotte, NC 28209, 980.299.0999, BurtonsGrill.com

Chopt Creative Salad Company – *Salads, Farm to Fork* – 4125 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209, 980.321.9034, ChoptSalad.com

CO – *Modern Asian* – 4201 Park Rd. D, Charlotte, NC 28209, 980.237.4655, eatatco.com

Dot Dot Dot (membership required) – *Speakeasy* – 4237 Park Road Unit B (Backlot), Charlotte, NC 28209, 704.817.3710, dotdotdotcharlotte.com

Duckworth's Grill & Taphouse – *Sports Bar* – 4435 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209, 704.527.5783, parkroad.duckworths.com/