



16 Best Restaurants in Gilbert & the East Valley

1. Joe's Farm Grill

Joe's Farm Grill was featured on Food Network's *Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives*.

It is definitely one of the best restaurants in Gilbert and the one place we always take out-of-town guests.

Most of the ingredients are locally sourced, including fruit, vegetables, and herbs that are grown at The Farm at Agratopia next door.

Meats such as beef, chicken, and other ingredients are sourced from local farmers when possible.

The restaurant is housed in the original Johnston residence. The renovated 60's era ranch-style home, turned burger joint, still holds the same modern mid-century charm.

We also love the outdoor seating with cafe lights strung over picnic tables. It's a great spot for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

They even offer \$12 off your meal on your birthday, just bring in your ID or birth certificate.

Order the Buttermilk Pancakes for breakfast and the Pan Pizza or Southwest Burger with Sweet Potato Fries for lunch. Top it off with the featured seasonal milkshake.

2. Joe's Real BBQ

Joe's Real BBQ is created by the same people behind Joe's Farm Grill.

They serve the best barbecue and down-home cooking around. The meat is smoked to perfection over Arizona pecan wood.

We also love the location in Gilbert's charming historic downtown district.

The food is served up cafeteria-style inside the red brick building that used to be a 1920s grocery store.

Head outside where you'll find picnic tables and a grassy area with lawn games.

Order the pulled pork sandwich or BBQ ribs with homemade mac & cheese or a jumbo baked potato on the side. Save room for a slice of warm cobbler!

3. Topo

Topo is also located right next door to Joe's BBQ and has become an iconic spot in Gilbert's Heritage District.

This small Route 66-inspired roadside food stand has walk-up ordering and outdoor seating.

Topo is known for its burritos, prickly pear ice cream, and the giant gopher that hangs out on the roof.

The menu is simple but delicious. The burritos are bursting with flavor, and their burrito bowls are equally delicious.

And you have to try the prickly pear ice cream, it's a unique Arizona treat.

If you've never tasted it before, it tastes similar to raspberry-flavored ice cream. I would also highly recommend getting your cone dipped in the lime-flavored coating!

They have a few other ice cream flavors to choose from, along with a monthly featured flavor.

4. Liberty Market

Liberty Market is located right across the street from Joe's BBQ and features the same historic charm.

This building was once a 1930s grocery store that served the early residents of Gilbert.

Today it is a trendy eatery that has been tastefully designed with both indoor and outdoor patio seating.

Liberty Market's award-winning chefs take pride in creating one-of-a-kind dishes using the freshest local ingredients.

New dishes are regularly added to the menu so there's always something different to try. This spot is great for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

Order the Wood-Fired Turkey Sandwich with Roasted Sweet Potato Salad, the Pretzel Twist with White Cheddar-Beer Fondue, or a Wood-Fired Pizza.

5. The Gilbert House

The Gilbert House is the cutest brunch spot in the heart of historic downtown Gilbert.

This family-owned restaurant is located inside of a charming restored farmhouse. It has been run by Susan Wright and her family for the past 18 years and has been a fixture in the community ever since.

Susan grew up on a dairy farm in South Dakota where she learned from her mother and grandmother how to cook from scratch using fresh ingredients.

She has brought her love and talent for making fresh home-cooked meals here to Gilbert.

Each dish on the menu is made with fresh high-quality ingredients that are locally sourced when possible.

The Gilbert house is open for breakfast and lunch, and they also sell a selection of baked goods.

We especially love the Spicy Chorizo Omelet, Green Chile Omelet, Eggs Benedict, Hearty Scramble, and the homemade Cinnamon Rolls.

They also offer seasonal dishes like the Apple Pancakes drenched in homemade apple cider sauce in the Fall!

While you are in downtown Gilbert, check out our guide [The Best Things to Do in Gilbert](#) for some fun recommendations!

6. Queen Creek Olive Mill

This restaurant is located on a working 100-acre family-owned farm that is the only producer of 100% extra virgin olive oil in Arizona.

The Olive Mill provides a farm-to-table experience as they serve up delicious fresh pasta, sandwiches, salads, and pizza. The food is served out of the old farm shed that has since been transformed into an eclectic restaurant.

They have plenty of outdoor patio seating and you can even play a game of bocce after your meal.

We would recommend any of the homemade pasta dishes, Margherita Pizza, or the Antipasto Board.

They also serve some of the most authentic gelato that we've found outside of Italy!

For more of the best places to get a sweet treat, check out these [13 Best Desserts in Phoenix East Valley](#).

Be sure to visit their farm store where you can take home some fresh-pressed olive oil.

You can buy a loaf of Italian bread and then use it to taste-test the variety of oils and spreads that they have available to sample before deciding which ones you want to purchase. Our favorite is a combination of strawberry and dark chocolate olive oil.

You can also take a tour to learn more about how the farm works.

7. Happy Bao's

Happy Bao's is located inside the Mekong Plaza, an Asian market and food court.

They serve a variety of Asian dishes made with handmade noodles, including Beef Noodle Soup, Dan Dan Noodles, and Beef Chow Fun.

They are especially known for their signature handmade soup and bao dumplings.

In fact, they have been voted as the best dumplings in Phoenix for the last 2 years by Phoenix New Times.

It is a popular shop with limited seating, so expect a wait.

While you are at Mekong Plaza, check out some of the other stores and restaurants. Tea Snow serves some of the best boba smoothies in the valley. We like the Ube

and Pina Colada flavors.

Roll Avenue features Thai rolled ice cream. You can watch them make this tasty treat by mixing cream, sugar, and fresh fruit.

It is then spread into a thin layer then flash frozen before being scraped into perfect little rolls. You can then pick your toppings to go with it.

You'll even find a cotton candy vending machine at the Mekong Plaza that makes cool designs out of cotton candy!

While you are there, be sure to stop by the Mekong Supermarket where you can find some unique foods to try.

8. Caldwell County BBQ

Caldwell County BBQ has brought authentic Texas barbecue brisket to Arizona.

The once-residential ranch home has been renovated into a charming farmhouse-style restaurant.

We love the food just as much as we love the ambiance!

Everything on the menu is delicious, but we recommend the Brisket with Lemon Poppyseed Cole Slaw, Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich, and homemade Mac & Cheese.

I would also highly recommend checking out their newer restaurant, [Caldwell County Mexi-Q](#) for the same delicious BBQ, but with a Mexican twist!

9. Hash Kitchen

Hash Kitchen is one of our favorite spots for a girls brunch.

We love the trendy decor and fun vibe. There is even an in-house DJ booth!

The menu has a fun twist on traditional dishes, like waffles topped with a sugar cone. The portions are huge and can easily be shared.

Our favorite menu items are the Banana Spilt Brioche French Toast or Canoli Pancakes for something sweet, and the Avocado Toast Hash Style for something savory.

And be sure to order the Cannoli Doughnuts!

10. The Farmhouse Restaurant

The Farmhouse Restaurant is another darling brunch spot in historic downtown Gilbert. It has been around for 21 years and is a favorite spot among locals.

The original Farmhouse Restaurant opened in 1989 inside an actual farmhouse on a real working farm in Gilbert. They have been serving up hearty homestyle dishes ever since!

The restaurant is now located in this historic building that was once a 1920s market.

We love this spot because the food is delicious, the portions are generous, and the service is friendly! You can't go wrong with anything on the menu, but be sure to order a giant homemade cinnamon roll!

11. Chon Thai Food

If you're craving good authentic Thai food, then Chon Thai will hit the spot!

The location is unassuming inside of a corner strip mall, but the space is simple and clean.

The restaurant may not be fancy, but they do serve flavorful Thai dishes that will keep you coming back for more.

The portions are generous, the prices are reasonable, and the service is friendly.

Order the Tom Kha Chicken soup, it is some of the best you'll ever have! The Green Curry, Pad See Ew, and Pad Thai are also incredible.

12. The Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop is a favorite neighborhood hang-out in Gilbert's Agritopia community.

It has a chic industrial-modern vibe with both indoor and outdoor patio seating.

They are known for their cupcakes that took first place on the Food Network's *Cupcake Wars*.

But all of their pastries and homemade baked goods are mouthwateringly delicious.

In addition to their bakery items, they also have a full breakfast and lunch menu.

The dishes are made using fresh ingredients, many of which are sourced directly from the gardens in Agritopia.

For breakfast, try the Indio Breakfast Sandwich, Papa's Burrito, or the San Diegan Omelette.

For lunch, order the Southwestern Chicken Sandwich, Chicken and Bacon Panini, or the California Club Sandwich.

13. Fire & Brimstone

Fire & Brimstone is located inside the trendy Barnone food hall at Agritopia Farm.

They serve up some of the best wood-fired pizza in the East Valley.

The ingredients are locally sourced, with much of the produce coming straight out of the dirt from the Agritopia Farm next door.

The menu also includes salads, sandwiches, and desserts. It's perfect for a date night or girls lunch!

After your meal, be sure to check out the collection of shops at Barnone featuring some of the finest craftsmen and makers in Gilbert

There is even a vintage photo booth where you can take home a memorable keepsake. The Agritopia Farm Store is also located next door. Here you can find farm-fresh produce and specialty gifts.

The farmer's night market is also held every 2nd Wednesday from 5-8 pm during the late fall and winter months.

14. Culinary Dropout

Culinary Dropout is located in vibrant downtown Gilbert where you'll find the perfect marriage of delicious food and a fun environment.

This is one of the best restaurants in Gilbert to meet up with friends for a celebration, or just enjoy a fun date night.

Culinary Dropout is part of the well-known Fox Restaurant Concepts, so you know the food will be top-notch.

For the appetizer, you have to order the pretzel bites with provolone fondue!

For your main dish, the Pub Burger, 36-Hour Pork Ribs, Fried Chicken, and Shaved Prime Rib Dip are all solid choices.

Be sure to save room for the Mississippi Mud Pie or Monkey Bread for dessert!

After your meal, enjoy the lawn games on the covered outdoor patio while listening to live music.

***Related post:** *Check out our guide for [101 Things to Do in the Phoenix East Valley](#) for a comprehensive list of things to do in the Valley.*

15. American Way Market

American Way Market serves delicious food and is housed in a cool historic space. Back in the 1950s, this was the first Safeway grocery store in Arizona.

Some of the original signs and decor are still on display, along with other vintage finds from around the valley.

The restaurant shares a building with Merchant Square Antiques. After your meal, take time to go antique shopping in one of the largest antique stores in the East Valley!

American Way Market is known for having some of the best smokehouse barbeque around. Their homemade baked goods are also worthy of mention.

Their dishes are made using locally sourced produce, meats, and dairy. They also make their bread fresh from scratch daily.

Definitely go for the Smokehouse specials and order the Smoked Ribs, Pulled Pork Sandwich, Smoked Tri-Tip Sandwich, or Market Dip Sandwich.

Be sure to pick up a few different baked goods from the front display, it will be hard to choose just one!

16. The Sicilian Butcher

The Sicilian Butcher has a fun ambiance and the best handcrafted meatballs and fresh pasta around!

The space is tastefully decorated with industrial modern decor and the authentic Italian food is delicious.

I would recommend the Bruschetta Board where you can mix and match different Sicilian-style bruschetta. My favorite is the fig jam + whipped goat cheese.

The Butternut Cappellaci Pasta is also a favorite. It is stuffed with butternut squash and ricotta and topped with amaretto cream and cookie dust.

And of course, you need to order some of their homemade meatballs that are big enough to fit in the palm of your hand!

Be sure to stop by the in-house bakery and grab some cannolis and tiramisu to take home with you.

