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If youre a foodie searching for the best restaurants in Wilmington, North Carolina, we have got just the beach town bites for you. Besides being home to some of the best beaches in North Carolina, the town of Wilmington is a haven for culinary hotspots. As a coastal oasis, you may expect a plethora of fresh seafood, and you would be right. Here you can choose the catch of the day and know that its straight out of the sea. Of course, the Southern classics abound as well. Its the perfect spot to seek out that down-home comfort food you crave. Thats not all the Wilmington area has on deck. Be surprised by savory fares from all around the world. Try out delicious dishes at dining destinations focused on traditional Asian, Italian, and Mexican cuisines. Chow down at charming local haunts, fill up on a fine-dining feast, or tantalize your taste buds with fresh farm-to-table fares. Come hungry, savor the flavors, and we promise your pallet will be pleased. Below are the best restaurants in Wilmington (with a few in Carolina Beach and Kure Beach, too!) Best Restaurants in Wilmington 1. Indochine Perhaps the most popular Wilmington restaurants for years on end. Serving authentic Thai and Vietnamese cuisines, dont miss a chance to dine al fresco in one of the oriental-style huts by the koi pond, complete with water lilies, at Indochine. Its a unique and memorable setting and has become quite the cult favorite among locals and visitors alike.Seriously, ever since we went to college at UNCW 10 years ago, this place has been popping almost nightly. They dont take reservations, and if you arrive Thursday-Sunday night, theres a 99% chance youll have to wait for a table, but its worth it. The exotic flavors of the Far East come alive with unforgettable dishes, such as the perfect Pad Thai, coveted Papaya Salad, and the craveable Green and Jungle Curry. The decor alone steals the show, to create a truly transportive experience. 2. Caseys Buffet and BBQ Having BBQ is one of the best things to do in North Carolina, and whats better than an all-you-can-eat BBQ buffet? An absolute establishment, one of the most iconic restaurants in Wilmington is Caseys. Fill up your plate and stomach with the best Carolina cooking around, at this family-owned paradise of soul food and Southern comfort. Go for the classics such as fried chicken, catfish, collard greens, and cornbreadall fresh and made from scratch. For the more adventurous eaters try the pigs feet or chitlins. This Southern soul food is sure to nourish you inside and out. The atmosphere is warm and cozy, reminiscent of diner decor or a happy homestead. Its one of the best restaurants in Wilmington, and bar none the best barbecue around. 3. RX Restaurant RX creates seasonally inspired Southern foods and offers a casual but refined setting to enjoy fresh fares. Working closely with local farmers and fishers, each dish feels inviting and hearty. The menu is always evolving based on what ingredients are best, even the beverages, making for an exciting surprise each visit. The food feels familiar yet comfortable. The decor is minimal and modest, set in an old pharmacy building near Downtown Wilmington, creating an upscale mood that matches the food. The braised pork belly with smoked cheddar grits is a popular pick, however, dont discount the North Carolina duck course. 4. Dram Yard Dram Yard consistently puts out that Southern coastal flavor we crave, but with a twist. If you prefer to let the experts take the dining drivers seat, opt for their three-course or four-course menu served on certain days of the week. Youll be in for a culinary treat. Each item on the menu feels carefully curated and handcrafted with thoughtful preparation of local ingredients. The Gazebo Bar on-site is a dreamy environment for sipping a drink in serenity. This courtyard garden is cozy and refined, and we would expect nothing else from Dram in Downtown ILM. There is a separate vegan menu for those so inclined, including meat-free gems, like beet tartare. 5. Pops Diner Not one of your seemingly best restaurants in Wilmington, but step inside and youll see why Pops is on this list. If youre strolling along the Carolina Beach boardwalk, a stop into Pops Diner is a must. A heavy dose of nostalgia, this 1950s diner dishes out all the favorites. We highly recommend a Cuban sandwich and the funnel cake fries. The vintage vibes are sure to bring a smile to any beachgoer, complete with a jukebox, walls of vinyl, shiny red booths, and an occasional Elvis sighting. These decadent dishes remind us of going to the state fair and feeling free to indulge in all that is fun. Even if your beach body doesnt thank you, your inner kid sure will. 6. Catch Catch is a haven of fresh coastal seafood located right on Market Street. Everything is sourced from organic growers and local fisheries that harvest sustainably from the iconic Cape Fear Coast. The crab cakes are award-winning and the Cajun fried North Carolina Oysters are beloved among seafood lovers. You cant get any fresher than Catch. The ambiance is contemporary, with just the right amount of nautical kitsch thrown in. Pair your plate with local beer from the best breweries in Wilmington, boutique wine, or a craft cocktail. Keep your eyes peeled for their food truck as you adventure around the area. This is one of the best restaurants in Wilmington and Carolina Beach. 7. Tarantellis Tarantellis plates up the Tuscan treats of your dreams. With a family-owned eatery, using family recipes originating straight from Italy, and serving up each fare family-style, nothing feels warmer or cozier than a night at Tarantellis. The Parmigianino is aged for 24 months and, we cant stress this enough, put it on everything you eat here. One of their handmade pastas may change your life, as the ravioli did ours. If youre a fan of a wood-fired pizza, youve come to the best place for it. The worst part about Tarantellis is that the menu is packed with so many Italian delights, and you cant order every single item. 8. Pinpoint A staple of the South, Pinpoint sources all the freshest, local ingredients for a menu that changes daily and is consistently infused with creative inspiration. Their dishes are a diverse array of farm-to-table fare rooted in American tradition. The raw oysters on the half shell, the smoked trout-baked oysters, and the charcuterie Rockefeller baked oysters are all phenomenal offerings that wont disappoint. Many plates will look too pretty to eat, but trust us, its best to dig right in. Its a popular spot for brunch and for craft cocktails as well. We usually head to one of the best Wilmington coffee shops (like Bespoke) for coffee before heading here for brunch. The atmosphere is quaint and warm, with a decor of exposed brick adorned with art. On top of it all, they have a fantastic location in Downtown Wilmington. 9. Fork N Cork Set in historic downtown Wilmington near many of the best hotels in Wilmington, Fork N Cork is a cozy scene serving even cozier comfort foods. They started as a food truck called Paddy Wagon and became such a hit in the city they had to open a brick-and-mortar store. People still travel far and wide to partake in the poutine or the pot pies. The Brisket Biscuit is a revelation in every bite. The confit duck wings will have you craving them for years to come. The Wellington Bites are sure to blow your mind. Visit the Wilmington or Carolina Beach locations to find finger-licking good favorites. Their claim to fame is a Fieri seal of approval, and you will see why with that first forkful. 10. Ceviches Ceviches is a Latin American lovers dream. The cuisine is inspired by Panama, and the bar is even constructed of reclaimed wood from the same country. The courtyard is a charming spot to enjoy these outstanding offerings. Named for its signature course, there is plenty on the menu to discover here. The Panamanian Paella is our preferred pick. The flavors are as vibrant and colorful as the cafe itself, and they partner with many sustainable efforts in the community to bring earth-conscious cuisine to the table. Get a taste of tropical paradise at Ceviches, one of the best restaurants in Wilmington, located right at Wrightsville Beach. So make a reservation after a big beach day out! 11. Shuckin Shack Responsibly sourced and seriously fun, this motto from Shuckin Shack is no joke. Its a shellfish sanctuary like no other. With many locations in the Southeast, the first was in Carolina Beach right near the Carolina Beach State Park, and the no-frills seaside setting is idyllic for these beach-themed bites. While the crab balls, calamari, and clams may get all the well-deserved attention, we love to go for the good old fashion Lowcountry boil. Order it single, double, or family-sized and partake in this time-honored coastal Carolina tradition: a pot of succulent shrimp, sausage, potato, and corn seasoned with Old Bay, and served right out on the tablecloth. Wed be remiss not to recommend the lobster roll as well. 12. Flaming Amys Burrito Barn Look no further than Flaming Amys for authentic and out-of-the-park Mexican. The Churkeychanga has made a name for itself among the wild foods world. The godzilladilla is a close second if you ask us. Vegetarian and vegan options are abundant, you wont even miss the meat, a rare and welcome surprise for this style of meal. The atmosphere is fun and funky and the menu is extensive, guaranteeing a good time for all at Amys. Its a local legend of the area, so dont be surprised if there is a line when you visit. Dont fret as it does move quite fast. Its one of the most affordable places you can eat in Wilmington. 13. Platypus & Gnome Not your average American bistro, Platypus & Gnome right on Front Street has more quirky fun to discover than just its name. The menu and ambiance are eclectic, creating a one-of-a-kind dining experience. The dishes rotate seasonally and feature exotic meats, along with vegetarian and vegan options. They explore the balance between modern, Southern comfort, and international foods. The Southern fried game hen stuffed with gluten-free bacon mac and cheese and the seared ostrich steak sandwich are some major standouts to name a few. If youre in the mood to munch up something youve never tried before, Platypus & Gnome should be your go-to. 14. The Basics The homey brick bistro Basics boasts the best brunch in town. Order the Southern Benedict with a side of Bloody Mary and you wont be sorry. The meatloaf, and shrimp and grits, are special dishes, served just like mama used to make them. They cook up all the classic comforts and contemporary creations. Its nestled right near the Riverwalk, perfect for moseying off all those hearty portions with a scenic view. Its certainly serving up more than just the basics if you ask us. 15. Savorez You cant go wrong with a Savorez in Downtown Wilmington! They serve up some of the best Latin American food weve had outside of Latin America! Located on the corner of 4th and Chestnut St this is a small dining establishment with only enough room for a handful of groups. The name says it all the name Savorez comes from the Spanish word Sabores, meaning flavors. Which is precisely what you find here plenty of vibrant flavors all sourced locally. They are serving up simple but scrumptious fan favorites with a less is more attitude. From tapas to empanadas, youll love all the appetizers. For dinner, we tried the Carne Con Ancho and Caliente Tuna and fell in love. We would highly recommend making a reservation on weekend nights, as mentioned the space is small and it gets busy! 16. Caprice Bistro For when you fancy decadent French fares, Caprice Bistro is one of the best Wilmington restaurants. The space is elegant, matching the gourmet artistry of the food. The Waterzooi is the house special, and the Beef Bourguignon is to die for. Perfect for an intimate meal, or a cozy catch up with loved ones, Caprice feels like a Parisian dream. Find the perfect wine pairing for your favorite French foods from the extensive and expertly curated list of vintage wines. The chef loves to cook for everyone, making the finest French dishes feel accessible and exciting. 17. Circa 1922 Set in a refurbished bank in downtown Wilmington, Circa 1922 provides global plates of delectable variety. They serve up everything from tapas to sushi to charcuterie, and they do it all with a fancy flair and fantastic flavors. Mix and match to make your perfect meal, pairing roasted bone marrow with burrata and oyster mushrooms or mussels mariniere with grilled artichokes. Live piano music adds to their ambiance on the weekends. With exposed brick, white tablecloths, and soft lighting, it feels nostalgic and new all at once. Theyve gathered quite the following in the area, so stop by to see what all the fuss is about. 18. Freddies Freddies in Kure Beach is one of the most classic spots to eat in the whole area wins our award as the best place to eat in Wilmington if you are in the Kure Beach area. It is loved by locals and is open year-round because of it (sometimes a rarity at the beach). Its a small intimate restaurant with just a few tables, but get a reservation here, and youre in store for one of the best pork chops youve ever had in your life! 19. The Little Dipper Youve likely heard of the chain restaurant The Melting Pot, but I can bet you havent heard of The Little Dipper. This is one of the best Wilmington restaurants and where I always ate while going to school at UNCW. Here you can get superb fondue in Downtown Wilmington, and visiting on a summer night is one of the best things to do in Wilmington! Its perfect for a date night, for family celebrations, or with a group of friends. Their specialty is cheese and chocolate fondue. Head here on a Wednesday evening for Ladies Night $10 fondues for the table! 20. Slice of Life For the absolute best pizza in Wilmington, you cannot miss Slice of Life. There are a few locations to enjoy in Wilmington, and trust me, you wont be disappointed! They have some of the best pizza Ive had! Get it by the slice in Downtown Wilmington or have a whole pie with some friends! The ambiance is fantastic and the food is even better! 21. Seabird Seabird Restaurant is a celebration of seasonality and one of the best Wilmington restaurants in the Downtown Area. They serve some of the best fresh seafood in the city caught daily and all paired with locally sourced produce. Its located in the heart of downtown in a historic building. The atmosphere is casual and friendly, with a charming nautical theme. Seabird has an extensive wine list, craft beer on tap, and a full bar, making it the perfect place to unwind and indulge, especially on their outdoor patio. While there is always something new to try here, some of the favorite fares are the oysters, the Squid Ink Spaghetti, and the NC Amberjack Carpaccio. 22. Manna Manna is a must-try culinary experience when eating out in Wilmington. They focus on American cooking thats both rugged and elegant, to honor the origins of cuisine in the country. The atmosphere is cozy and inviting, perfect for a casual night out on the town. Be sure to try one of their signature cocktails here since theyre known for their creative and delicious drinks menu. Some of the most popular dishes from this simple menu include the Bobby Filet and the I Got Ewes Babe. The lounge also hosts infamous Bourgie Nights, where local and traveling musicians can take the stage. 23. Rum Cow Rum Cow is famous for making American eats with a global flair and is home to some of the best lunch in Wilmington. While theyre newer to the foodie scene in the city, theyve wasted no time gaining a respectable reputation for serving some of the best food around. The ambiance is bright, airy, and delightfully modern, perfect for snapping a few Instaworthy pics. The seafood-based menu boasts several stand out plates. This includes shareables like the Cajun Fried Gator Bites, or mouthwatering mains such as the Island Burger. Of course, you cant really visit Rum Cow without trying one of their namesake cocktails. They have a wide selection to choose from, so youre sure to find something that youll love. 24. True Blue Butcher and Table True Blue is one of Wilmingtons most beloved restaurants, and for good reason. They serve up delicious New American cuisine with a fresh and seasonal flair. The atmosphere is effortlessly contemporary and timeless. The farm to table fares always make it feel like a full finest dining experience. The drinks are just as delicious as the food here, the handcrafted cocktails pair well with the plates in particular. They have both a dining room and a butcher shop, so you can even take some high-quality cuts home with you for later. 25. Bennys Big Time When working up an appetite in Wilmington, be sure to check out Bennys Big Time Pizzeria. This local spot is beloved by all who eat here for its delicious food and fun atmosphere. Bennys specializes in authentic wood fired pies, made with a thin crust and plenty of fresh cheese to top it off. The funky and hip environment guarantees a good time too. The menu also features a variety of other Italian dishes, including pasta, sandwiches, and salads. In addition to great food, Bennys also offers live entertainment some nights of the week. 26. Mess Hall For some of the best food in Wilmington NC, you cant go wrong with Mess Hall. Mess Hall is outpost based in the up-and-coming Cargo District and one of the best places to eat in Downtown Wilmington. They are focused mainly on the classic North Carolina cuisine at the dine-in food hall, although they also have an artisan drive thru coffee bar. Everything here is handcrafted and super fresh. The sauces are sourced daily, they grind their own meat to make the famous smash burgers, and even the vegan patties are done in-house. One of the main draws of this delightful spot is the connected alcove beer garden. Theyre a newer eatery in the area, but its safe to say that locals have fallen head over heels for this hip neighborhood joint. 27. Elijahs Elijahs is located along the scenic banks of the Cape Fear River. This waterfront atmosphere is one of the most enjoyable anywhere in the city. Theyve been a staple of the area since 1984. The other claim to fame here are the delectable fresh seafood dishes served with a classic Southern twist. Though theyre billed as a casual American grill and oyster bar, the plates have a fine dining feel. They also boast an impressive selection of beers and wines. Some specialty items include crabcakes and shrimp and grits. 28. The Green House If youre looking for a delicious vegan meal while in Wilmington, the Green House is definitely the go to. Theyre known for plant-based fine dining and offer a variety of vegetable forward dishes that are sure to tantalize your taste buds, whether you eat meat free or not. The menu specializes in all things sustainable and seasonal. Theres both a full bar (complete with tasty mocktails) and a thoughtfully curated selection of natural wines. The setting is just as modern and chic as you might imagine. If youre looking to try something new or just want a healthy meal, you wont be disappointed with this modern dining destination. 29. Smoke on the Water Smoke on the Water is set in the scenic Marina Village along the Riverwalk in Wilmington. The expansive bar is the place to be in the city for grabbing a craft beer or specialty cocktail, especially as the sun goes down. Theres a large deck with outdoor seating or an indoor option with wall sized windows so you can soak up the views regardless. The menu offers a wide range of refined favorites including Seafood Steamer Pots and the Fried Oyster Po Boy. If you consider yourself an adventurous eater who likes seafood, try one of their more creative concoctions like the Shrimp and Tasso Corndogs. 30. Cast Iron Kitchen Cast Iron Kitchen is a Wilmington legend serving simple Southern food all day long. Its North Carolina home cooking at its finest and theres truly something for everyone on this menu, whether its breakfast or lunch youre after. From fried chicken to shrimp and grits, youll find all of the classic comfort foods youve been craving. They also use all locally sourced ingredients, so you know youre getting the freshest food possible. The atmosphere is cool and casual, along with awesome hospitality. There are a variety of vegan and vegetarian options available as well, so its ideal for anyone with dietary restrictions. Always be sure to try one of their signature cocktails or local craft beers to wash down your meal here. Best Restaurants in Wilmington, NC click for interactive map of the best Wilmington NC RestaurantsA great performance gives the audience exactly what they want and more than they ever imagined. And it inspires everyone and everything around it to be betterAt BEST, we make high performance range hoods that perform beautifully. Astonishingly quiet. Impressively effective. Remarkably efficient. And perfectly suited for the most distinguished kitchens. Whether its the centerpiece of the room or letting its surroundings shine, BEST is where high-end performance inspiresBEST. Performance that Inspires Support: robert@wilmingtonncmagazine.com| Advertise with us Powered by 2025 Etymology Adjective Middle English best, beste, going back to Old English betst, best, (as weak adjective) betsta, betesta, going back to Germanic *batista-, superlative degree of the adjective seen in the comparative *batizn better entry 1, whence also Old Frisian best, bst "best," Old Saxon betst, best, Old High German bezzisto, Old Icelandic beztr, baztr, Gothic batista Adverb Middle English, going back to Old English betst, betest, derivative of betst, best best entry 1 Noun Middle English, going back to Old English betste, derivative of betst, best best entry 1 Verb derivative of best entry 1, after better entry 2 Auxiliary verb by ellipsis from had best First Known Use Adjectivebefore the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1 Adverbbefore the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1 Nounbefore the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 2 Verb1863, in the meaning defined above Auxiliary Verb1897, in the meaning defined above Time Traveler The first known use of best was before the 12th century See more words from the same century When people think of dining out in North Carolina, the major cities of Charlotte, Raleigh, and Asheville may be first to come to mind. After all, Ashevillewith standout restaurants like Curate, Rhubarb, and Benne on Eaglewas named Yelps No. 1 Foodie Destination in both 2021 and 2022. But the culinary talent in the Tar Heel State extends far beyond these metropolitan hubs. It has permeated smaller towns along the Atlantic coast, in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains, and everywhere in between. If your vacations largely revolve around eating great food (and they absolutely should), one of the most exciting new places to head is Wilmington. This historic Port City and its neighboring island communities are wedged between the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean, meaning there are gorgeous views of the water everywhere you turn. And since nothing goes better with a great view than a great meal, the city has restaurants of all shapes and sizes that are ready to welcome you in for an unforgettable experience. From fresh seafood to Southern staples to flavors from around the world, these are (in no particular order) the 20 best restaurants in Wilmington. After years working in some of the Souths most well-known kitchens and later branching out on their own, husband-and-wife duo Dean Neff and Lydia Clopton have struck gold with their downtown Wilmington spot Seabird. The restaurants two main focuses: sustainable seafood and seasonality come together in dishes like Fried Smoked North Carolina Flounder served with crab gumbo, grits, and baby bok choy and Eastern Cioppino, which makes use of seafood thats native to the eastern seaboard. For a big night out, order the Seasonal Seafood Tower and marvel at the chilled glory. seabirdnc.com; 1 S. Front Street, Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-769-5996 Theres eating, and then theres dining. The incredible ambiance at Indochine takes your meal past the point of tasty nourishment and into the realm of memorable experiences. Wander through the expansive patios and dining rooms of this longtime favorite spot, and youll be instantly transported to Southeast Asia. Tropical plants, rickshaws, thatched roof dining huts, and koi pond start the convincing, but the authentic Thai and Vietnamese dishes seal the deal. The expansive menu includes everything from banh mi and pho to Thai curries and chicken satay. indochinewilmington.com; 7 Wayne Drive Market Street at Forest Hills, Wilmington, NC 28403; 910-251-9229 Credit: Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB A grilled cheese sandwich is a simple endeavor but at this modern lunch spot in Wilmingtons up-and-coming and ultra-trendy Cargo District (plus a second location located near the bridge to Wrightsville Beach), the after-school classic is taken to the next level. Sure, you can a standard ooey-gooey sandwich stuffed with American cheese, but you can also get one filled with Havarti, pulled buffalo chicken, carrot and celery slaw, and buttermilk ranch (Buffalo Baby) or accented with spicy, fermented kimchi (Kimcheese). cheesesmithco.com; 624 S 17th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 and 1319 Military Cutoff Road, Suite MM, WIlmington, NC 28405 Credit: Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB Since opening in the heart of downtown Wilmington in 2015, PinPoint has remained at the top of everyones list of best places to eat in the city. Though executive chef Dean Neff left to take on new adventures in 2019, the restaurant has continued its standard of excellence for outstanding dishes that utilize local and seasonal ingredients. Now under the careful hand of executive chef Cameron Garvey, the menu (that changes nightly) includes dishes like Roasted Winter Squash Curry and Duck Confit Cassoulet. pinpointrestaurant.com; 114 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-769-2972 Credit: Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB OK this isn't technically a restaurant, but it is one of the best places to eat in Wilmingtonor more specifically, Carolina Beach. Opened since 1939, this boardwalk shop is known for its homemade glazed donuts. There's only one thing on the menu, so line up with the rest of the smart folks in town to put in your count, then prepare to be amazed by the simple perfection of these melt-in-your-mouth treats. Every donut is made to order, so you won't have to worry if these fried pillows of dough are hot and ready. brittsdonutshop.com; 13 Boardwalk, Carolina Beach NC 28428; 901-707-0755 Credit: Courtesy of The Southerly A warm, buttery biscuit may be the ultimate Southern delicacy; and The Southerly in Carolina Beach may have perfected the art. Get your house-made buttermilk biscuits split open and stuffed with everything from country ham and cheddar cheese to fried catfish. The other thing this place does well is pie. The Crack Pie, Grandmas Apple, and Southern Pecan are instant classics anyone could love, but true North Carolinians know the real magic is in the Cherry Cheerwine Lattice Pie. thesoutherlync.com; 1206 N. Lake Park Blvd, Unit D, Carolina Beach, NC 28428; 910-707-0776 The best word to describe acclaimed chef Vivian Howards big-hearted restaurant in Wilmingtons South Front neighborhood is fun. From the giant mural of a Parmesan cheese being grated to the Southern Fried Chicken Parm appetizer thats topped with hot honey, Stracciatella, and pickled peppers nothing at Bennys Big Time is taken too seriously, minus the deliciousness of the food. This is kind of place locals visit on a weekly basis for all the nostalgia of takeout pizza night but with a chefs spin. bennysbigtime.com; 206 Greenfield St., Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-550-2525 Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB. The concept behind this all-day caf in downtowns Cotton Exchange complex is to make good, familiar food great with tiny tweaks and culinary twists. The breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner menus at this cozy brick-walled space are centered around Southern comfort dishes like fried green tomatoes and shrimp and grits, but pay extra attention to the daily specials that tend to get a little more creative while keeping their roots. thebasicsilm.com; 319 N Front St., Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-343-1050 Credit: Courtesy of Drift Coffee & Kitchen Mint-green subway tile, pendant lighting, hanging baskets, and light wood tables create a cool, surfer town environment inside Drifts six outposts that are sprinkled throughout the city and its nearby beaches. You can certainly stop in for a cup of coffee, but several of the locations also offer a generous brunch and lunch menu with fresh bites to fuel your day. Kick off your morning with chia pudding or a breakfast burrito, or stop by later for a harissa grain bowl or smash burger. driftcoffee.kitchen; multiple locations Chef-owner Hunter Tiblier channels the flavors of his childhood in Panama at Ceviches, located just a few miles from the sandy shoreline of Wrightsville Beach. Find the blue-and-yellow house (theres a mural of a toucan on one side, so its hard to miss), and begin the struggle of deciding what to order. Every meal must start with ceviche (even those averse to seafood can try the fresh, citrusy salad with coconut in lieu of fish or shrimp). From there, choose between entrees like Ropa Vieja, braised flank steak in a peppery tomato broth over coconut rice, and Corvina a la Plancha with chili-lime-ginger butter. A Panama Painkiller cocktail or margarita rimmed with salt straight from Wrightsville Beach is the perfect pairing. bceviche.com; 7210 Wrightsville Ave, Wilmington, NC 28403; 910-256-3131 Credit: Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB Helmed by James Beard semifinalist and Top Chef competitor Keith Rhodes, Catch has been a favorite occasion destination in Wilmington since 2006. Like many of its compatriots, Catchs point of view centers around sustainability, seasonality, and locality. Southern influence is apparent, but so are flavors from around the world. For example, dishes like Fried Seafood Platter with jerk collards and Crispy Skin Salmon Filet with drunken noodles and miso honey glaze coexist beautifully on the menu. catchwilmington.com; 6623 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28405; 910-799-3847 Credit: Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB The menu changes daily at this white-tablecloth spot downtown, so a return visit is a must. Offering creative New American cuisine, plus a large wine list and plenty of craft cocktails, this is a date-night spot that bars no expense to create a memorable dining experience. At Manna, the dish names are as creative as the cuisine. For example, the Swine Spectator features hickory-smoked North Carolina pork with summer succotash, chow chow, and jus. The Honeydew List includes summer melons, burrata, Tulsi Italian speck, and black pepper honey. mannaavenue.com; 123 Princess Street, Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-763-5252 Credit: Courtesy of Casey's Buffet If youre in the mood for good, no-nonsense food, Caseys is your spot. Since 2005, this all-you-can-eat restaurant has turned out some of the best country cooking youll find in the South. Soul food, barbecueif its Southern theyve got it. Dishes like fried chicken, catfish, barbecue pork, and their famous pig feet are always on the buffet. Look out for daily specials like chicken gizzards and livers, meatloaf, and hot wings, that get added to the mix. caseysbuffet.com; 5559 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403; 910-798-2913 Credit: Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB The name of this plant-based restaurant is quite apt considering its property also is home to a greenhouse that contains 18 Tower Gardens growing more than 1,000 plants. The fresh-grown microgreens, lettuces, and herbs make their way onto the menu, where produce is the star, but you never feel like youre missing out on meat. Yes, there are veggie-forward appetizers like seared turnips with arugula pine nut pesto, radish, minto, and shishitos. But there are also heartier dishes like Sweet Potato Gnocchi and Eggplant Agebitashi served over rice in a dashi-tamari broth. thegreenrestaurant.com; 1427 Military Cutoff Road, Wilmington, NC 28403; 910-679-4994 Credit: Courtesy of Nippy's Soul Food Restaurant The recipes used at Nippys are generations old and generously shared with hungry diners by brother-sister duo William and Marsha Bordeaux. The cinderblock building this hidden gem is housed in is nothing to look at, but the crab rice, turkey wings, and ox tails served inside sure are. Whatever you add to your plate, just be sure to save room for an order of banana pudding. nippyssoulfood.square.site; 2206 Carolina Beach Rd, Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-769-7807 Credit: Courtesy of Caprice Bistro A love story is at the helm of this beloved French restaurant. Owners Thierry and Patricia met in Cannes in 1975, opened their first restaurant together in New York City a little over 10 years later, and eventually made their way South to North Carolina. Open since 2001, their latest endeavor, the intimate, dark-wooded Caprice Bistro shows off Thierrys culinary chops and Patricias gift for hospitality. Share an order of Escargots Petite Gris and Beef Bourguignon with your special someone and youll feel instantly whisked away (at least for the evening) to the City of Love. capricebistro.com; 10 Market St, Wilmington,NC28401; 910-815-0810 Credit: Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB Expertly fusing Latin and Southern flavors, the Sunday brunch at Savorez is one of the hottest tickets in town. Folks pack in for hearty, familiar options like biscuits and gravy and French toast, only with a south of the border flair. This means the biscuits and gravy re made with chorizo gravy and served with salsa fresca and avocado and the French toast is reimagined as fried hunks of Cuban bread with cinnamon syrup, strawberries, and whipped cream. The lunch and dinner menus offer similar creative takes on classic Latin cuisine. savorez.com; 402 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-833-8894 New kind on the block, Olivero has been making waves since it opened in fall of 2023. Inside the renovated grocery store, James Beard-nominated chef Sunny Gerhart explores his Spanish-Italian roots that eventually landed his family in New Orleans. With plates like lasagna with octopus Bolognese, chorizo, and whipped ricotta and spaghetti with charred romesco, zucchini, burrata, and basil, Olivero is already well on its way to accomplishing its goal of becoming the citys new favorite pasta spot. Look for Spanish and Mediterranean influences in starters like croquetas with Serrano ham and smoked eggplant with piquillo pepper and anchovy. oliveroilm.com; 522 S 3rd Street, Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-399-2961 Credit: Courtesy of Tarantelli's This family-owned restaurant was most recently awarded the title of Best Authentic Italian Food in Wilmington by Wilmington Magazine in 2023, but has won the honor many times over. Inside the warm downtown spot, the pasta is always homemade, the meatballs are prepared using a secret family recipe, and theres always more wine to pour. For a true spectacle, order the Spaghetti al Formaggio Parmigiana, its made with flamed whisky and served tableside for two from an authentic Italian cheese wheel. tarantellis.com; 102 South Second Street, Wilmington, NC 28401; 910-763-3806 Credit: Courtesy of the Wilmington and Beaches CVB One of the earliest discoveries to be featured on Guy Fieri's Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives, Fork N Cork has built a legacy around creative and delicious bar food. Look for appetizers like Wellington Bites, Toasted Crab Bread, and deep-fried Duck Wings served with sauces that run the gamut from hot honey garlic to habanero orange marmalade. The burgers here are stacked high, the drinks are ice-cold, and the vibes are always top-notch. There are two locations of this beloved restaurant: one in downtown Wilmington and a second in Carolina Beach. theforkncork; 122 Market St, Wilmington, NC 28401 and 102 Cape Fear Blvd., Carolina Beach, NC 28428; 910-228-5247 and 910-441-3675 Editor's Note: Hurricane Helene has impacted the South. Our thoughts are with those affected, and we encourage readers to stay informed about travel disruptions and road closures. Learn how you can help support our neighbors here.of the highest quality, excellence, or standing.I do my best work after meditation.Singling out the student with the top GPA is not always the most effective way to find the best students.most advantageous, suitable, or desirable.We've investigated a number of methods, but this is the best way.most excellently or suitably; with most advantage or success.I think it will be an opera role that best suits her voice.in or to the highest degree; most fully (usually used in combination).Shakespeare's best-known poems are his sonnets, but he also wrote narrative poems.Eleanor Roosevelt and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy remain two of the United States' best-loved First Ladies.Your security system company can advise you about the features best suited for your home.the best, something or someone that is the most excellent, most suitable, of the highest quality, or the highest degree (often used withof).They always demand and get the best.The best of us can make mistakes.To the best of my knowledge, this was the first use of that word in print.a person's finest clothing.It's important that you wear your best.a person's most agreeable or desirable emotional state (often preceded byat).She's not at her best before her morning coffee, so you might want to wait a few minutes to talk to her.a person's highest degree of competence, inspiration, etc. (often preceded byat).He's at his best when he works in a team.the highest quality to be found in a given activity or category of things (often preceded byat).These gorgeous oak kitchen cabinets are an example of cabinetmaking at its best.the maximum effort that a person, group, or thing can make.Their best fell far short of excellence.a person's good wishes or kindest regards.Please give my best to your father.to get the better of; defeat; beat.He easily bested his opponent in hand-to-hand combat.She bested me in the argument.the superlative of goodmost excellent of a particular group, category, etcmost suitable, advantageous, desirable, attractive, etcmost ofto do one's utmost to make progressto hurryCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012the superlative of well 1in a manner surpassing all others; most excellently, advantageously, attractively, etc(in combination) in or to the greatest degree or extent; mostas effectively as possible within one's limitationswould be wise, sensible, etc, toCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012the most outstanding or excellent person, thing, or group in a category(often preceded by at) the most excellent, pleasing, or skilled quality or conditionthe most effective effort of which a person or group is capableeven their best was inadequatea winning majorityAlso: all the best.best wishesa person's smartest outfit of clothingin the most favourable interpretationunder the most favourable conditionsfor an ultimately good outcomewith good intentionsto surpass, defeat, or outwit; betterto concede someone's superiorityto cope as well as possible in the unfavourable circumstances of (often in the phrases make the best of a bad job, make the best of it)informalsix strokes with a cane on the buttocks or handCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012(tr) to gain the advantage over or defeatCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Charles Herbert . 18991978, Canadian physiologist: associated with Banting and Macleod in their discovery of insulin in 1922George . 19462005, Northern Ireland footballerCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012American-born Canadian physiologist who assisted Frederick Banting in the discovery of the hormone insulin. In acknowledgment of his work, Banting shared his portion of the 1923 Nobel Prize with Best. In addition to further refining the use of insulin, Best later discovered the vitamin choline and the enzyme histaminase, which breaks down histamine.Origin of Best1First recorded before 900; Middle English beste, Old English betst, best; cognate with Dutch best, Old High German bezzist (German best), Old Norse bezt, Gothic batists; better 1, -est 1Origin of Best1Old English betst ; related to Gothic batista , Old High German bezzistIdiomsthe best part of, most of.Repairing the window took the best part of a day.at best, under the most favorable circumstances.You may expect to be treated civilly, at best.all for the best, for the good as the final result; to an ultimate advantage: Also for the bestIt turned out to be all for the best, though at the time we didnt realize it.make the best of, to cope with in the best way possible.The rain makes it a lot harder to have a picnic, but we know how to make the best of a bad situation.as best one can, in the best way possible under the circumstances.We tried to smooth over the disagreement as best we could.get / have the best of, to gain the advantage over. to defeat; subdue.His allergies get the best of him from time to time.best of both worlds, the most excellent or desirable parts of two things combined, especially two things that might otherwise be difficult to reconcile.With a quiet rural atmosphere and a short commute time into the city, this suburb is ideal for office workers who want the best of both worlds.had best, would be wisest or most reasonable to; ought to.You had best phone your mother to tell her where you are going.with the best, on a par with the most capable.He can play bridge with the best.Examples have not been reviewed.Universities had requested clarity from the OfS on how to best uphold freedom of speech, after the University of Sussex was fined 585,000 for failing to do so in March.Helen Knight, director of medicines evaluation at NICE, acknowledged the latest news would be "disappointing" but said the benefits were "modest" at best while requiring "substantial resources".This is the best thing to happen to the Southlands sports landscape since, well, the last time Walters TWG Global group bought something this big.California attorneys are sworn to a duty to act in the best interests of their clients, Cardona said.The team does not have a lot of room in the salary cap to sign big-name free agents, so shopping for undervalued impact players is best option.Definitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage Idioms Dictionary copyright 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.Bessiebest-ballBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrssttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLCBest Buy hosts sales on everything from TVs to appliances to game consoles, but not every discount is worth your time. The Wirecutter Deals team researches each price and posts only the best deals Best Buy offers on products recommended by Wirecutters expert writers. Looking for even more deals? Check outour main deals page.Updated 12 hours agoon June 18, 2025Staff pickNetvue Birdfy Smart Bird House$104 $130 Save $26What we like: A bird house staff pick with a solar-powered camera. Lets you watch a bird family right from your smartphone. Sharp and bright images. Microphone easily picks up conversations between the birds. Held up well in rough weather. Overall met our expectations.Other things to know: Before you install this bird house, the company recommends treating its wood exterior surfaces with a weatherizing agent. Hanging a nesting box in the yard is no guarantee that a pair of birds will settle in and put down roots.Worth consideringApple AirPods Pro 2 Wireless Earbuds$170 $200 Save $30Buy from Amazon Buy from Best Buy Buy from Target Buy from Walmart What we like: Wireless Bluetooth earbuds worth considering for people who use Apple devices exclusively and who prioritize the niceties of staying in the Apple ecosystem above all else. Offers a few great features for Apple fans, including always-listening Siri and the new hearing-aid capability.Other things to know: Most of its major specs including 6-hour battery life, always-on voice control, head-tracking spatial audio, and IPX4 water-resistance are matched by Sonys LinkBuds Fit, which have a smaller design, more secure fit, easier controls, and lower price. ANC isnt nearly as effective in airplane band as that of our noise-cancelling picks.

What are the best baby clothes. Best newborn clothes. Where to buy good quality baby clothes. Clothes newborn baby needs. What to buy newborn baby clothes. New baby clothes checklist.