

# diversions

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## West of the

## HILL

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Your stomach's grumbling, and you and your dining partner are playing that obnoxious "I don't care; what do you want to do?" back-and-forth thing.

But there are many overlooked options if you just venture a few blocks west toward Carrboro.

The area houses nearly 300 restaurants, and many of them serve interesting food in unique atmospheres at all price ranges. Several are even nationally acclaimed.

From white tablecloth to dirty table, you don't have to search very hard to come across an exceptional dining experience west of UNC's campus. Here's a sample:

### Beverages



#### 3 CUPS

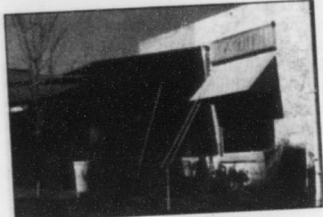
When it comes to coffee, 3 CUPS does everything possible to maintain the highest level of freshness.

Eight to nine different types of coffee is available, each freshly ground for each customer and brewed in individual French presses.

Tea is freshly brewed as well and comes in pots of two different sizes with a timer so you can monitor the brewing time, based on the strength you would like.

If you want a cappuccino, though, you're out of luck, since 3 CUPS only serves single-origin coffees and teas.

For more information, go to [www.3cups.net](http://www.3cups.net).



#### GlassHalfFull

Located at 106 S. Greensboro St. in Carrboro, GlassHalfFull is a wine bar that also serves Mediterranean-style tapas.

You can get a glass or bottle of one of the 25 wines on the rotating wine list or sample it by getting a 3 oz. half-glass of wine.

The menu is vegetarian friendly, and sharing is encouraged. There also are beer and liquor options, if you're not into wine.

You also can head over to the adjacent wine shop to buy that bottle you enjoyed so much at a cheaper retail price, or browse the selection of more than 300 other wines.

For more information, visit [www.glasshalffull.net](http://www.glasshalffull.net).

### Sandwiches



#### SANDWHICH

Located at 431 W. Franklin St., SANDWHICH's goal is to provide the freshest and highest quality ingredients available.

They then take those ingredients and pile them in imaginative combinations on handmade breads.

Sauteed cremini mushrooms on a grilled cheese or brussels sprouts and bacon require a more adventurous spirit, but adventure is the shop's biggest specialty.

They also have homemade soups, cookies and tuna salad, with fresh poached tuna, not canned.

Beware: You have to ask for the side of chips (homemade and drizzled with butter), which is extra. Additional information is available at [www.sandwich.biz](http://www.sandwich.biz).



#### Skylight Exchange

Stuffed way down a narrow alley at 405 1/2 W. Rosemary St., Skylight Exchange could be easy to miss.

But if you're intrepid enough, you'll enter a low-ceilinged room with a counter on one side and book-lined walls on the other.

You can play a board game or peruse the used books, tapes and records while you wait for your food.

The menu features more than 50 sandwiches, from classic (BLT, chicken salad) to crazy (African tuna and peanut butter).

Skylight Exchange is open every day from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m., when it turns into Nightlight, and a limited menu is served until 2 a.m.

### Entrees



#### Acme

Located at 110 E. Main St. in downtown Carrboro, Acme Food and Beverage Co. is a Southern-style restaurant that serves a variety of food.

You can get tapas-style small plates of fried calamari salad or spaghetti squash or choose from larger entrees such as crab cakes and pan-seared sea bass.

You can also get a sandwich or salad. To go with your meal, you can choose from the extensive wine list or one of the many beers on tap.

Catering is also available. For additional information, you can visit [www.acmecarrboro.com](http://www.acmecarrboro.com).



#### Crook's Corner

You know that building on the edge of West Franklin Street, right before you hit Carrboro, with the hubcaps on the door, surrounded by a curtain of bamboo? And how you just kind of always walk by, never really wondering what it is?

Well, it's Crook's Corner (610 W. Franklin St.), a Southern-style restaurant that's been at that corner for more than 25 years. And its food is lauded by The New York Times, The Washington Post, Bon Appetit and Travel & Leisure, among others.

With such classic Southern dishes as shrimp and grits and hoppin' John dotting the seasonally changed menu, this one is a must.

For more information, visit [www.crookscorner.com](http://www.crookscorner.com).



#### Milltown

Located at 307 E. Main St. across from Cat's Cradle, Milltown is a bar and restaurant that specializes in Belgian-style beers and food.

The food menu is small but varied. The beer menu, however, offers more than 150 brews to choose from.

With offerings like steak frites and pretzels, the menu strikes a good balance between French and German.

There's also a patio, perfect for enjoying those balmy Southern January nights.

The cool atmosphere and late night drinks make Milltown a great place to go anytime. For more information, call 919-968-2460.



#### Southern Rail

Located next to Carr Mill Mall, Southern Rail (201-C E. Main St.) is a restaurant and bar in three old rail cars.

The restaurant is heavy on ambience, and the owners are concentrating on making Southern Rail a neighborhood hangout with good food at reasonable prices.

If you want to enjoy the scenery while you eat, there also are patios and a beer garden out back.

There are brunch, lunch and dinner menus, and there's an anytime menu served until 2 a.m. with burgers and grilled cheese.

For more information visit [www.sr-nc.com](http://www.sr-nc.com).

### Late Nights and Desserts



#### Fuse

When the show's over at Nightlight, you can hop over to Fuse (403 W. Rosemary St.) for some late-night eats.

The menu is vegetarian friendly and features sandwiches, steaks and salads. Most of the food is tapas-style, but there are also larger entrees if you're hungry or don't feel like sharing.

Some nights there are DJs and karaoke, and there's always cool art on the walls.

With a varied menu of small plates of food for a cheap dinnertime and a reduced menu served until 2 a.m., it's the perfect place to go after a hard night. Or to continue it.

Go to [www.f-use.com](http://www.f-use.com) for more information.



#### Locopops

Popsicles are awesome, no matter how cold it is outside. Luckily, it stays warm enough down here so you can enjoy a frozen treat any time.

Based on Mexican "paletas," which are water- or milk-based Popsicles made from fresh fruit, Locopops are a gourmet twist on your average frozen novelty.

Nestled in the same courtyard as SANDWHICH and 3 CUPS (451 W. Franklin St.), Locopops has many cool regular flavors, including mango chile and hibiscus, plus a wide variety of regularly rotating guest flavors, like chocolate Earl Grey.

Open every day from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Cash only. For more information, go to [www.ilovelocopops.com](http://www.ilovelocopops.com).

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**NEW WEEKLY SEGMENTS** Keep an eye out for our new regular features on the DiveBlog.

**CONCERT REVIEWS** Vicarious experiences of last week's shows with photos, too.

**BE OUR FRIEND** Be our virtual friend on Myspace: [www.myspace.com/dthdiversions](http://www.myspace.com/dthdiversions).

#### concerts

##### CANDY COATED

Black and white doesn't do justice to the bright paisley colors of Violet Vector and the Lovely Lovelies, but it'll have to do.

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#### music

##### HELL BENT FOR LEATHER

Raleigh band Colossus resurrects Judas Priest and Iron Maiden on its debut full-length but turns it into a riotous good time.

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#### movies

##### A HEART AS BLACK AS OIL

Daniel Day-Lewis becomes a sinister presence in the outstanding epic "There Will Be Blood," out Friday.

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#### Q&A

##### DANCE PARTY

Future Islands can't seem to make up its mind between three cities — but the band will party in Chapel Hill on Friday.

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