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Reader's Digest

A Trusted Friend in a Complicated World

The Best Traditional Restaurant In Every State

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For food that reflects your state's culinary culture, look no further than its best traditional restaurant

Restaurants that stand on tradition

America was built upon tradition. And while we love trendy eating experiences (hello, food trucks) as much as the next person, there's something comforting about settling into a seat in a traditional restaurant. From sea to shining sea, these dining spots offer the best expressions of each state's individuality, from famous state foods to new traditions reflecting the ever-evolving cultures throughout the American experience.

Our picks for the best traditional restaurant in each state include eateries serving dishes that reflect the locale, iconic establishments and places locals rave about. Some are fancy enough for special occasions (think an anniversary or Valentine's Day dinner), while others offer outstanding food in a casual environment. All serve up what will soon become your new favorite foods, a lesson in culinary anthropology and the joy of knowing the people and places that make the nation's palate so interesting.



Illinois: Gene & Georgetti Steakhouse

Located in the heart of the River North neighborhood, Gene & Georgetti is the Windy City's oldest steakhouse. Inside, you'll find an old-school atmosphere—think red leather chairs, white tablecloths and walls lined with photos of famous patrons. A Chicago institution since 1941, Gene & Georgetti is beloved for its traditional Italian dishes, like chicken Vesuvio, eggplant parmesan, homemade lasagna and, of course, huge and flavorful steaks.