

The U.S. of yumm

O beautiful for scrumptious pies, for amber rolls of grain... We believe your vacation meals should be as glorious as your vacation, so we went hunting for the most delicious tastes in our great land. From regional delicacies to little-known spots with big flavors to classics as American as marionberry pie, our state-by-state guide is an invitation to savor your way from sea to shining sea.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
LITTLE OUTDOOR GIANTS



with melty Swiss cheese and stuffed between slices of subtly sour marbled rye, grilled to ideal toastiness.

TENNESSEE

Walk into **ALCENIA'S** in Memphis and you'll likely find yourself in the arms of bright-eyed, apple-cheeked, perpetually grinning proprietor B.J. Chester-Tamayo, who greets patrons with a hug. The soul food spot, with its tomato-hued walls and folksy paintings, dishes out equally welcoming food. The belly-warming meat-and-three special includes a main of your choice, like **fried chicken** or **baked catfish**, plus cornbread or a roll and two vegetables that

never take a backseat: B.J. is as famous for her bright collards as she is for her rapturous chicken and waffles.

TEXAS

Less than 20 miles from the Mexican border, Lourdes Pearson heads up an all-star Tex-Mex operation called **LITTLE DINER**. She makes her masa dough on-site, so her **gorditas**—toasty pan-fried cornmeal pockets packed with fillings like ground beef, shredded cheese, veggies, and sometimes a layer of guacamole—are the freshest and most fabulous.... The hip Austin beer garden **EASY TIGER** (above left) has a choice waterside location; sit on the patio with a craft beer and a Hill Country **meat and cheese board** (which includes venison cheddar hot links and wild boar sausage) as you gaze at the serene Waller Creek.... For carnivores, few foods conjure as much enthusiasm as a **muffuletta**. The DiCarlo family's sumptuous version—piled high with salami, mortadella, ham, provolone, and a chopped olive salad—at **JIMMY'S FOOD STORE** in Dallas is the platonist ideal (and it's even better after a night in the fridge).



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POP CULTURE
Here comes the fizz: local sodas worth sipping.

CHEERWINE
A wine-red gem from North Carolina, crafted since 1917. It's a sweeter cherry soda, like a Dr Pepper doused with maraschino juice. Available in diet, too!

FAYGO
A Michigan classic that's cheerfully artificial, like a mix of water and Jolly Ranchers with some bubbles thrown in. It's pure, unadulterated sugary glee, especially the Rock N' Rye.

MOXIE
Created in Massachusetts, Moxie is a complex refreshment that's somewhere in the root beer family but with a charmingly bitter herbal aftertaste.

SKI
This Tennessee native is alluringly sweet and sour. Made with—gasp!—real orange and lemon juice concentrate, it's as "natural" as a big-name soft drink gets.