

# Historic Restaurants in Raleigh That Are Well Worth a Visit

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David Straughan

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Raleigh’s dining scene has officially become a destination. Food & Wine even boasted that North Carolina’s capital city “is having a major food moment.” Most often it’s new Instagram-ready, chef-driven upscale establishments that get the nod. However, Raleigh has a large collection of historic restaurants that have been serving up meals to North Carolinians for generations.

Next time you're in the Oak City, consider skipping the Edison bulb and small plates establishments in favor of something a little more classic. These historic restaurants are sure to please and will give you a little taste of old Raleigh.

## **The Mecca Restaurant – Opened in 1930**

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**13 E Martin St**



Photo courtesy of [The Mecca Restaurant](#)

When The Mecca opened, one of the most popular items of the menu was a T-bone steak that sold for 55 cents. These days, it's the breakfast food that gets all the attention.

Located just a few blocks from the Capitol, North Carolina's lawmakers, judges, and lawyers have been feasting on Southern food staples for 90 years. Rumor has it that you're nobody in North Carolina politics until they know you by name at The Mecca.

### **Clyde Cooper's BBQ – Opened in 1938**

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**327 S. Wilmington St.**



Photo by [rtevebaugh](#) on Instagram

If North Carolina had an official cuisine, BBQ would be it. Clyde Cooper's BBQ in Downtown Raleigh would be a great place to welcome someone to the world of traditional N.C. BBQ.

Fortunately, you won't have to pick a side in the great BBQ debate. You'll only find Eastern N.C.-style vinegar-based BBQ at this establishment.

## **The Roast Grill – Opened in 1940**

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**7 S West St**



Photo by [ameliarayno](#) on Instagram

You won't find many options at The Roast Grill. For the last 80 years, customers have been able to choose from housemade chili, slaw with no mayo, mustard, and chopped onions to top their dogs, and that's it.

To this day, owner “Hot Dog George” Poniros mans the original grill his grandparents installed when they opened The Roast Grill in 1940. Just like them, he’ll burn ’em for you.

## The Original Char-Grill – Opened in 1959

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618 Hillsborough St



Photo by [deanjeffrey](#) on Instagram

Char Grill opened in 1959 as a simple place to get takeout burgers, fries, and chocolate milkshakes. More than half a century later, not much has changed.

While the company has opened more than 10 locations around North Carolina, nothing beats the original.

## The Angus Barn – Opened in 1960

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9401 Glenwood Ave



Photo courtesy of [nrlchefshowdown](#) on Instagram

Since 1960, The Angus Barn has been serving fine steaks and, according to some, finer wines. A winner of countless awards for both their food and wine selections, “The Barn” is one of the most sought-after dining establishments in the southeast.

Make reservations well in advance and prepare for a special feast.

Looking for more [dining recommendations](#) in North Carolina? Check out a few of our other lists in our [Lifestyle](#) section.

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### About author

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David Straughan (David Straughan)

**David Straughan** is a writer, editor, and coffee nerd from Durham, North Carolina. Before coming back home, David served as Editor of two English-language magazines in Ningbo, China. Now, back in Durham, he is an obsessive investigator of local businesses, culture, and politics.



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~~June 23, 2020 (June 23, 2020)~~

## **Black-Owned Clothing & Accessories Businesses in NC**

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Whether you're looking for vintage second-hand items or fresh designs right off the rack, there is a multitude of businesses to purchase your wardrobe from in North Carolina. We've gathered a list of 25 Black-owned businesses where you can find your clothing and accessories while supporting the African American community.

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