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Finding quality time as a family is tough. Mealtime may be the last bastion of hope.

BY SEARCH CASTLE ROCK STAFF

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ON THE COVER

Red Rocks Amphitheatre



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The Best BBQ In Town

This county ain't big enough for two "BEST BBQ's" ... actually, we shared our top four. If you haven't tried these offerings, you're missing out.



Fogo de Chao

"Fogo de Chão always lives up to the hype! The fire-roasted meats just keep coming, and that massive salad bar is incredible. It's the perfect spot for a big night out or a group party. And the Guaraná is a must!"



GQue BBQ

"Stopped in for the ribs and they did not disappoint. Incredible flavor and literally fell off the bone. Great environment that makes you want to come back. I heard the chicken wings are amazing, so I'll give those a try next time. Great news is they are opening a Parker location soon."



Bman's BBQ

"Consistently listed among the best BBQ eateries in Douglas County, this family owned 'hole in the wall' gem is well worth the drive to Sedalia. They pride themselves on their sauce, but don't forget to indulge in some sides!"



Smokey Trail BBQ

"Had heard great things and finally made my way out to them. The smoked brisket exceeded my expectations, and that's saying something. These guys run as a mobile setup, so check their Facebook page to find out where they'll be. Well worth finding them!"




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101

THINGS TO DO

In and around Douglas County

Turns out there's only so much Netflix you can watch.
We've compiled a list for whenever you need some inspiration, motivation,
or just a little guidance when it comes to deciding on something to do.
We guarantee there's something for everyone on this list.

- 1- Chatfield State Park
- 2- Castlewood Canyon
- 3- The EDGE Ziplines & Adventures
- 4- Roxborough State Park
- 5- Cherokee Ranch & Castle
- 6- East/West Regional Trail
- 7- Cherry Creek Trail
- 8- The Homestead
- 9- Rock Park
- 10- Theatre of Dreams
- 11- DCF Guns Shooting Range
- 12- Vehicle Vault
- 13- PACE Center
- 14- Rueter-Hess Reservoir
- 15- Discovery Park
- 16- Parker Days
- 17- DC Fair & Rodeo
- 18- K1 Speed Indoor Go Karts
- 19- Highlands Ranch Mansion
- 20- The Ice Ranch
- 21- South Suburban Sports Complex
- 22- Sagebrush Stables
- 23- DC Library
- 24- Colorado Renaissance Festival
- 25- Outlets at Castle Rock
- 26- Miller Activity Complex
- 27- Mini Incline CR
- 28- Festival Park CR
- 29- The Barn Antiques CR
- 30- Parker Fieldhouse



- 31- Pollywog Station Lavender Farm
- 32- Parker Rec Center
- 33- Rueter-Hess Incline
- 34- The Red Farm House
- 35- Lone Creek Farms
- 36- Rocky Mountain Freedom Festival
- 37- CR Historical Society and Museum
- 38- The Emporium CR
- 39- H2O'Brien Pool
- 40- Parker Symphony Orchestra
- 41- FAF Air Soft
- 42- Echo Park Stadium
- 43- Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre
- 44- Bingham Lake
- 45- Four Mile Historic Park
- 46- Bayou Gulch Regional Park
- 47- Bluffs Regional Park and Trail
- 48- Challenger Regional Park
- 49- Fairgrounds Regional Park
- 50- Highland Heritage Regional Park
- 51- Cherry Creek Regional Trail
- 52- East West Regional Trail
- 53- High Line Canal Regional Trail
- 54- Pinery Loop Trail
- 55- Colorado Front Range Trail
- 56- Dawson Butte Ranch Open Space
- 57- Lincoln Mountain Open Space
- 58- Hidden Mesa Open Space
- 59- Spruce Meadows Open Space
- 60- Castle Pines Golf Club

- 61- Colorado Golf Club
- 62- The Club at Ravenna
- 63- Golf Club At Bear Dance
- 64- Red Hawk Ridge
- 65- Sanctuary Golf Club
- 66- Perry Park Country Club
- 67- The Club At Pradera
- 68- Sandbox VR
- 69- Civic Green Park
- 70- Taste of Highlands Ranch
- 71- LEGO Americana Roadshow
- 72- iFLY Indoor Skydiving
- 73- Park Meadows Mall
- 74- Lone Tree Arts Center
- 75- Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center
- 76- Big Horn Stables
- 77- Tiny Town & Railroad
- 78- Shredder: Indoor Ski & Snowboard
- 79- Play Street Museum
- 80- Wings Over The Rockies



- 81- Colorado Railroad Museum
- 82- Climb a 14er
- 83- Plains Conservation Center
- 84- Lariat Loop National Scenic Byway
- 85- Devil's Head Lookout Trail
- 86- Manitou Incline
- 87- Dinosaur Ridge
- 88- The Inverness Hotel and Spa
- 89- Cook Creek Pool
- 90- Westridge Recreation Center
- 91- Farmers Market
- 92- Lone Tree Arts Center
- 93- Studio At Mainstreet
- 94- Lone Creek Farms
- 95- iFly
- 96- Uncorked Kitchen
- 97- Colorado Motorcycle Adventure
- 98- Lone Tree Pedestrian Bridge
- 99- Cherry Creek State Park
- 100- Aurora Reservoir
- 101- Bowlero



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The Family Table

From bonding to education, regular family dinner time contributes to positive results for everyone involved.





he kitchen table is a well-used place. It may be a little bit scratched or worn. Throughout the day and week, it serves many purposes. In our home it is a place where homework is done, papers are sorted, projects are created, groceries are unloaded, games are played, and books are read.

But at the end of each day, it becomes a treasured place – a place to gather, a place where people come together. For a few moments a day it is a place to stop. Sitting around the table enjoying a meal, conversation, and laughter is a blessed event. It is a necessary ritual that binds us together and fills our bodies and spirits. Our daily time together celebrates everything the table represents: food, family, fun, and home. The table is also a place to share with neighbors, friends, and loved ones.

The familydinnerproject.org is a website dedicated to furthering this practice. It notes some amazing research about how this one daily practice can impact our families and each person individually. The website states, “Over three decades of research have shown that regular family meals offer a wide variety of physical, social-emotional and academic benefits. While some of these benefits can be gained through other activities, eating together is the only single activity that is known to provide all of them at the same time.” These benefits range from higher self-esteem and lower risk of obesity to bigger vocabulary and better academic performance, among many others. Visit the website to learn more.

I remember my grandpa describing how a neighbor once told him that they saw their family sitting up to dinner together each night and it was evident that habit contributed to their strong family bonds. That was when my dad was growing up in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. The importance of cementing family bonds continues still and can be harder than ever in our busy and distracted world.

Coming together as a family each day can give ourselves and our children a boost to life! It is often where we plan our calendar or discuss chores and notes of family business. It can also become a prolonged and hilarious event when we sit around talking long after the food is gone. It is definitely a cherished time for us each day, necessary for our success.



THE GUIDE

THE BEST PLACES TO DINE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

In the interest of providing the 50 best dining options in Douglas County, we must be able to personally recommend each listing. The guide is subject to change. If you have a suggestion for inclusion on the list, email us at contribute@tuellers.com.

KEY

Based on a typical dinner for one person, excluding drinks, tax or tip.

\$ Under \$15
\$\$ \$15-\$25
\$\$\$ Over \$25
(EC) Editors Choice
(N) New

ASIAN FUSION

DANCING NOODLE

A small, family owned, dine-in and take-out restaurant that serves authentic homestyle Thai food.

10841 S. Crossroads Dr., Suite 10, Parker
303-805-3880 \$\$

INDOCHINE

A local go-to for quality home-style cuisine. This Parker fixture is known for a fresh, creative menu.

19751 E Mainstreet, Parker
720-851-8559 \$\$

ITO SUSHI ASIAN BISTRO

Asian fusion restaurant known for quality ingredients and fresh fish daily.

2240 Mercantile St #100, Castle Rock
720-749-6777 \$\$ (N)

JOHN HOLLY'S

Chinese and Thai dishes that are nothing less than the culinary equivalent of an exotic adventure.

9232 Park Meadows Dr, Lone Tree
303-768-9088 \$\$



PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast and lunch, Pegasus has something for everyone. They have served an eclectic menu in a comfortable setting for the past 31 years. While you're there, go see the giant riverboat roulette wheel behind the bar!

JUNZ

A favorite sushi place in town with a unique blend of Japanese and French at its very best.

11211 S. Dransfeldt Rd., Parker
720-851-1005 \$\$

BAKERY/DESSERTS

LA PETITE CREPERIE

The locals favorite spot to grab made-to-order crepes. Sweet or savory, you can't go wrong. Proudly serving farm to table fresh.

19751 Mainstreet, Parker
720-638-9722 \$ (EC)

PARIS BAGUETTE

Popular Korean chain that brings expertly crafted baked goods through a warm and welcoming bakery cafe' experience that delivers joy to everyone.

18374 Cottonwood Dr., Parker
720-500-5555 \$ (N)

POULETTE BAKESHOP

New artisan bakers taking Parker by storm. Order early, they sell out every day!

19585 Hess Road, Parker
303-955-5647 \$ (N)

BARBEQUE

BIG JIMS

Don't be fooled by this being a food truck; if you like southern BBQ, this is your place. **Corner of Parker Rd and Longs Way, Parker** \$\$\$

GQUE BBQ

Award-winning food. Try the wood-smoked ribs, brisket, pork, or garlic potatoes. **8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Suite 143B, Lone Tree**
303-729-2506 \$\$

HICKORY HOUSE

The Parker tradition. Known for their baby back ribs, but don't miss the pulled pork and barbeque chicken. **10335 S Parker Rd, Parker**
303-805-9742 \$\$

OLD WEST BBQ

A hidden gem with family-friendly pricing. Don't miss out on their breakfast burritos. **107 Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock**
303-660-6340 \$

BREW PUB

20 MILE TAP HOUSE

Best known for their burgers and wings. Make sure to catch Trivia Tuesdays. **12543 N Hwy 83, Parker**
303-841-6782 \$\$

GREAT DIVIDE BREWERY & ROADHOUSE

Destination locale with an informal ambiance offering hearty comfort classics **215 Wilcox St Suite G, Castle Rock**
303-955-5788 \$\$ - \$\$\$ (N)

ROCKYARD BREWING CO.

Douglas County's longest running brew pub. Steaks, burgers, pizza and soup! **880 Castleton Rd, Castle Rock**
303-814-9273 \$\$

TAILGATE TAVERN & GRILL

Your neighborhood tavern for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Sports bar with live music not to miss on the weekends. **19552 E. Mainstreet, Parker** 303-841-7179 \$\$

THE LIBRARY CO. BAR & KITCHEN

Offering great food & amazing drinks in a relaxed and warm atmosphere. Clear and simple menu options. **3911 Ambrosia St., Suite 101, Castle Rock** 720-389-5986 \$\$

ITALIAN

CRANELLI'S

Comfort Italian food in a rustic, cozy, casual family-oriented format. **10047 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree** 303-799-3661 \$\$

DANIELLE'S SCRATCH KITCHEN

Stylish, energetic eatery offering elevated Italian fare with an emphasis on great customer service. **872 Happy Canyon Rd. Suite 100, Castle Rock** 303-524-9788 \$\$\$

PORTOFINO

Authentic Italian eatery featuring pizza, pasta, calzones and heros. The local "go-to" for fresh Italian. **10920 S Parker Rd, Parker** 303-841-9900 \$\$

SCILEPPI'S

A modern Italian restaurant focused on family recipes and premium ingredients. **210 Third St., Castle Rock** 303-688-9000 \$\$

VIA BACI

Neapolitan pizzas join modern Italian fare at this casual eatery featuring a full bar & patio. **10005 Commons St, Lone Tree** 303-790-0828 \$\$

MEXICAN

ADRIANNA'S

Intimate Mexican eatery for authentic cuisine in a relaxed ambiance. Great for parties. **7272 E Hwy 86, Franktown** 303-663-7800 \$\$

CASA MARIACHI

Unassuming local joint serving up straight-forward Mexican plates. **9771 S Parker Rd, Parker** 720-842-5105 \$\$

LA LOMA

Upscale-rustic atmosphere known for traditional Mexican meals. **6361 Promenade Pkw, Castle Rock** 303-632-9900 \$\$ (N)

LAS POTRANCES

Casual Mexican restaurant full of real Mexican culture, Mexican Food, Fresh Drinks, and Friendly Hospitality. **19600 Solar Cir, Parker** 303-840-0325 \$\$ (N)

LOS DOS POTRILLOS

Elegant family-owned eatery. There's a combo dish to please everyone. **6370 Promenade Pkwy., Castle Rock** 720-769-5474 \$\$

LOS VOLCANES

Don't miss the Carnitas! And bring your appetite for the large portions. **10471 S. Parker Rd., Parker** 303-841-0160 \$\$

NEW AMERICAN

CASTLE CAFE

Set in a former 1890s hotel. Plating hearty American fare like pan-fried chicken & burgers. **403 Wilcox St, Castle Rock** 303-814-2233 \$\$

VALERIE'S BREWHOUSE

Uniquely fun sports bar with a creative menu of brats and dogs. **971 Park St., Castle Rock** 303-660-2399 \$

CRAVE

A favorite gourmet burger joint. Imaginative menu with amazing handcrafted shakes. **3982 Limelight Ave, Castle Rock** 303-814-2829 \$\$

DOUG'S DAY DINER

American breakfast cafe where everything is made from scratch. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-476-7162 \$\$

MANNA

A casual sit-down destination with a menu that reflects Colorado's growing season. **2350 Meadows Blvd., Castle Rock** 720-455-3664 \$

PARKER GARAGE

The Parker landmark located right downtown offers a locally-sourced menu. Great service and large portions. **19420 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-389-8105 \$\$ (EC)

PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast or lunch. American, Greek or Mexican dishes. **313 Jerry St., Castle Rock** 303-688-6746 \$\$

RORY'S

Comfort food and baked goods at their finest. Don't see it on the menu? Ask for it! **11020 S Pikes Peak Dr., Parker** 720-708-2889 \$\$

SIERRA

High-end, wood-fired kitchen with a warm ambiance, preparing select American dishes. **10680 Cabela Dr., Lone Tree** 303-662-8800 \$\$

TRIBE AT RIVERWALK

Upscale, yet casual dining experience with a one-of-a-kind menu. Don't miss the brunch. **115 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock** 303-362-0904 \$\$\$ (N)

WEST MAIN TAPROOM

A modern and open venue that boasts thoughtful and honest cuisine. A haven for the gluten-free crowd. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-826-3689 \$\$

PIZZA

ANTONIO'S

A traditional family-style Italian pizza restaurant with a Brooklyn flair. **12947 S Parker Rd., Parker** 720-851-5300 \$

ARTISAN

Delicious Neapolitan-style pizza that makes each dish an individual work of art! And don't forget dessert. **12311 Pine Bluffs Way, Parker** 303-840-0518 \$

COLORADOUGH

A refreshing take on made-from-scratch pizza. So fresh they don't even have a freezer! **17860 Cottonwood Dr., Parker** 303-386-3333 \$\$

LIL' RICCI'S

New York pizzas & other red sauce staples in a low-key setting. Can't miss the garlic knots. **16526 Keystone Blvd, Parker** 303-220-7422 \$\$

PARRY'S

NY-style pizza, wings, & casual Italian eats, in kid-friendly quarters. **5650 Allen Way, Castle Rock** 303-814-8686 \$\$





STEAKHOUSE

DUKE'S

Rustic restaurant featuring beef & seafood dishes, plus a sports tavern with an Irish vibe.

**363 Village Square Lane,
Castle Pines**
303-814-2487 \$\$\$

FOGO DE CHAO

Upscale Brazilian steakhouse with all-you-can-eat meat carved tableside. Guaraná is a must, and try the Creme de Papaya. **8419 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**

303-481-4001 \$\$\$ (EC)

PERRY'S

Chops, seafood, wine, & cocktails served in an upscale setting with a lounge & live jazz. **8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**

303-792-2571 \$\$\$

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Texas-themed steakhouse with a great menu and wonderful atmosphere.

**11205 S. Parker Rd,
Parker**
303-805-5848 \$\$

TRAPPER'S CHOP HOUSE

Upscale hideaway local favorite featuring their signature Volcanic Hot Rock sear-it-yourself experience.

**19308 Cottonwood Dr.,
Parker**
303-248-2132 \$\$\$

UNIQUE

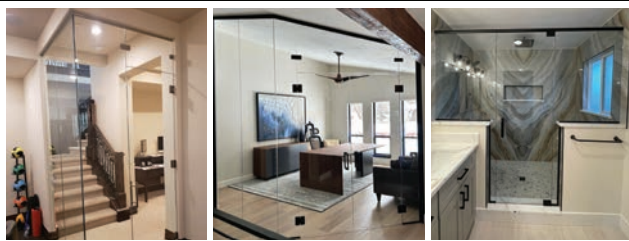
VISTAVINO MODERN

Quaint Tuscan grill made fresh from local fare. Every dish is a winner!

611 Wilcox St., Castle Rock
303-814-2487 \$\$



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