

Film Festival Dining

By Bryce Parks

We wanted all of the visitors to downtown Dubuque taking in the Julien International Film Festival to know exactly what's close by to temp their tummies in between movies and special events related to the festival. Yes, you can walk a few blocks farther and find even more amazing eats, but below are the spots you can enjoy by practically stepping outside your screening venue. And hey, if you are downtown for a show at Five Flags, this list is just as handy. Make it dinner AND a show. I'm talking to you, Asbury. Get down here and try some home-grown, non-chain restaurants for a change. Enjoy!



Pepper Sprout

378 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-556-2167

PEPPERSPROUT.COM

HOURS: TUE-THU: 5-9 PM;
FRI-SAT: 5-10 PM; SUN-MON: CLOSED

You're just not going to find a more wow-inspiring dinner on Lower Main than at the Proper Sprout. High-end food and service with great mixed drinks and wine. Owner/chef Kim Wolfe always has a seasonally sensational menu to suit many palates including vegetarian and gluten free. Naturally, it's also the most expensive place on the block, but for good reason. Nightly specials will take you to special places, and the apps and desserts are so good, you'll want to plan accordingly. The caesar salad is legendary, but, filled with very potent raw garlic, you don't want it on a first date as your breath could catch fire for some time to follow. You'll need mints before retiring to film festival conversations! Call to make a reservation.



Caroline's Restaurant

HOTEL JULIEN DUBUQUE
200 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA

563-588-5595

HOTELJULIENDUBUQUE.COM

HOURS: MON-THU: 7 AM-10:30 AM,
11 AM-1:30 PM, 5-8 PM;
FRI: 7 AM-10:30 AM, 11 AM-1:30 PM, 5-9 PM;
SAT: 7 AM-1:30 PM, 5-9 PM;
SUN: 7 AM-1:30 PM, 5-8 PM

Housed right in the epicenter of festival activity in the lower level of Hotel Julien Dubuque, Caroline's is right behind Pepper Sprout for fine dining. Also rotating new seasonal dishes and specials, you will find great refined plated entrées and mixed drinks. As refined as it is, it's also versatile, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and you don't have to get all dressed up. But if you do, you'll fit right into the classy atmosphere. Lunch centers around sandwiches, wraps, soups, and salads, and dinner covers all bases: beef, chicken, seafood, pork, and pasta dishes hit all the bases of your taste buds.



The Vault

342 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-582-4603

FACEBOOK: @THEVAULTDUBUQUE

HOURS: MON-THU: 11 AM-8 PM;
FRI-SAT: 11 AM-9 PM; SUN: CLOSED

A bit more accessible but still high quality and certainly elevated above pub food, The Vault is great about offering up unique and delicious specials all the time, so see what their special is before you go to the menu. The modern American-style restaurant with a vintage Dubuque feel is housed in the historic old German Bank building. Think a more affordable price point for dishes that still stray into the high-end plated entrée territory as well as signature cocktails.



River Rock Kitchen & Tap

HOLIDAY INN DUBUQUE/GALENA
450 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA

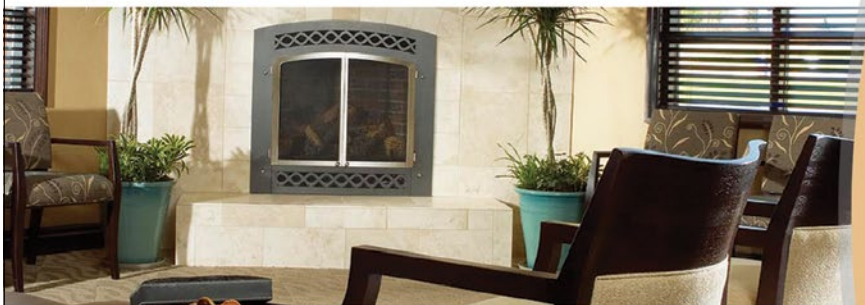
563-690-5600

RIVERROCKKITCHENANDTAP.COM

HOURS: MON-THU: 6:30-9 AM, 5-9 PM;
FRI: 6:30-9 AM, 11 AM-2 PM, 5-9 PM;
SAT: 6:30-10:30 AM, 11 AM-2 PM, 5-9 PM;
SUN: 6:30-10:30 AM, 5-9 PM

It doesn't get more convenient if you're staying at the Holiday Inn than their own restaurant, but it's pretty darn convenient for everyone else too, right across from Five Flags Theater. Steaks, chicken, ribs, catfish, pastas, and, of course, stacked burgers and sandwiches. The part you may not know is that the menu also features many favorites from the Bennigan's franchise from BBQ baby back ribs to the Turkey O'Toole and the iconic Bennigan's Monte Cristo Sandwich. We like Sheila's Sriracha Shrimp. Plus, they have many craft beers on tap, feature cocktails, and a nice wine list. Come as you are. No reservations needed.

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Drs. Alexia Oetken, Kristen Berning and Ted Murray are members of the AACD.
* Dr. Ted Murray is AACD accredited.



1st & Main

101 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-587-8152

1STANDMAINDBQ.COM

HOURS: MON-FRI: 11 AM-2 AM;
SAT: 9 AM-2 AM; SUN: 8 AM-2 AM

Found right where the name says it is, 1st & Main is decidedly elevated pub food. Great burgers and sandwiches include a Philly pulled pork and even a Brie grilled cheese while entrées will get you a 4-piece chicken, glazed salmon, and pastas. We love the fish tacos. The appetizers are also great with a million chicken wing flavors to try and a full bar, of course. Later in the evening, this joint transfers from fun dinner venue to active nightlife hotspot. Yep, they have a great breakfast on Saturday and Sunday only.



Baraboo's on Main

345 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-231-3226

BARABOOSONMAIN.COM

KITCHEN HOURS: MON-TUE: 11 AM-2 PM;
WED-SAT: 11 AM-9 PM; SUN: 11 AM-6 PM

The newest entry into the Lower Main dining pool, Baraboo's is a tavern serving elevated bar food and doing it very well. They even just won a best burger in Dubuque contest, so you know they have game. That burger is indeed good with a great grilled taste to the fresh, never-frozen brisket mix beef. The wings and nachos are stellar too, leading into great wraps, sandwiches, soup, and salads. If a comfy, kicked-back place to get some grub is your goal, settle in right here. They also make some killer craft cocktails like their smoked old fashioned.



Pauls Tavern

176 LOCUST ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-556-9944

TUE-SAT: 11 AM-2 AM; SUN: 11 AM-MIDNIGHT;
MON: CLOSED

It's just a rite of passage to head over to Paul's and have a scoop of beer and a slider off the griddle. They literally have like, a burger or a ham and cheese sandwich. But there's something about being surrounded by odd taxidermy and a very not-this-century vibe that makes the burgers (get two with grilled onions) off of that crazy, ancient, built-in-the-wall griddle that will make this a spot you can't help but post to Instagram. Trust us.



The Sorpresa Gifts

269 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-663-2699

THESORPRESAGIFTS.COM

HOURS: TUE-THU: 11 AM-6 PM; FRI-SAT: 11 AM-7 PM;
SUN: 11 AM-4 PM; MON: CLOSED
MONDAY: CLOSED

Stam Chocolates and homemade gelato. What more do you need to hear? While Sorpresa is a gift shop featuring a variety of hard-to-find and unique items, many food-centered, a visitor with a sweet tooth will want to pop in for some stellar fine Stam Chocolates as well as a variety of flavors of their very own in-house gelato. Get it in a cup or take home a pint or two!

Jimmy Johns

356 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-582-9500

JIMMYJOHNS.COM

HOURS: DAILY: 10:30 AM-9 PM

It's Jimmy John's. You know the score. But it's right there, and it's fast!



Barrel House

299 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-845-7928

BARRELHOUSEPUB.COM/DUBUQUE

HOURS: DAILY: 11 AM-8 PM

One of the biggest and busiest eateries on the strip, the giant windows and high ceilings give Barrel House a good vibe for hanging out, and a huge menu doesn't hurt either. Apps are highlighted by the firecracker shrimp, portobello mushroom fries, and lobster dip. There are no less than 15 signature burgers and as many sandwiches from Nashville hot chicken to pulled pork to a firecracker fish sandwich. Plus, salads, wraps, pizzas, quesadillas, and desserts. Variety is the key ingredient here, and giant TVs behind the three-sided bar will keep you up on what's going on in sports and more.



Mason Dixon

163 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
563-582-3445

MASONDIXONDBQ.COM

KITCHEN HOURS: THU 3-8:30 PM;

FRI-SUN: 11 AM-8:30 PM; MON-WED: CLOSED
Slow roasted meat for Ruebens, in-house smoked baby back ribs, and a special dry rub for the burgers, pork, and beef loins. Ribs on Thursday and Sunday only.

Note: Lot One is currently closed for renovations. ■

SUBMIT YOUR DINING SUGGESTIONS!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE RESTAURANT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE US VISIT? PLEASE SEND US YOUR REQUESTS, SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS!
EMAIL: DINING@DUBUQUE365.COM

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INSPIRED MEX

FRIDAY MAY 5, 4-11PM

Drink Specials

- \$3.50 Corona & Light Bottles
- \$3.50 Busch Light & Ultra - 16 oz.
- \$3.50 Jumbo Lime Rocks Margaritas

99 Bottles of Corona Prize Giveaway!
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ROCK STEADY 7-11 PM

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