

Best of Eugene 2009-2010: Eat Your Heart Out



best american cuisine

1. Cornucopia 17th & Lincoln, 485-2300; 5th & Peal, 485-2676. www.eugenecatering.com
2. Turtles Bar & Grill 2690 Willamette St. 465-9038.
3. McMenamins East 19th Street Café: 1485 E. 19th Ave., 342-4025. High Street Brewery & Café: 1243 High St., 345-4905. North Bank: 22 Club Rd., 342-5622.
www.mcmenamins.com



What does it mean to serve American food? Burgers? Fries? Or is it food served in the spirit of neighborhood camaraderie, after-work beer sharing and watching the kids grow up between club sandwich lunch dates? Either way, Cornucopia is a natural winner in this category. Even its voicemail greets you with a friendly, "Hello, friends and neighbors!" Whether there for date night, friends in town or some free entertainment with dinner, Cornie devotees have watched their favorite watering hole grow and change (and multiply!) over the years but never lose its rootsy spirit. How much more American can you get?

best burger

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3. Dickie Jo's 201 E. 13th Ave. 636-4488.

A newbie to town recently asked me where she could get a good salad. I recommended Cornucopia, to which this resident of only three months answered, "Oh, I can't order salad there. I'll just end up getting a burger." Such is the draw surrounding the luscious, drippy but somehow not-too-bad-for-you-seeming half-pound towers of meat served at the Corn. Even the non-initiated can't resist. Throw in the fact that the burgers are made from antibiotic- and hormone-free beef raised in Oregon, and you might have to put down this paper and go get one right now.