

# How's the Food?



VONDA'S KITCHEN



MARK MORRISSEY

## CENTRAL WARD Hobby's Delicatessen & Restaurant

32 Branford Place  
(973) 623-0410 | [hobbysdeli.com](http://hobbysdeli.com)

Located in downtown Newark, Hobby's Delicatessen has been operated by the Brummer family since 1962. This old-fashioned Jewish delicatessen still claims to pickle their legendary corned beef in stainless steel vats to maintain its high standard of quality. They also offer salads, gazpacho and plenty of salami. Hobby's has been featured in the New York Times, the Star Ledger, the New Jersey Law Journal and New Jersey Lawyer, as well as on Channel 2 News, Fox News, CNN, WINS, WCBS, BBC, WNET's "A Walk Through Newark," and many other media outlets across the country.



MARK MORRISSEY

AS NEWARK INCREASES IN POPULARITY, it's important to recognize some of the restaurants that have been feeding the city's residents well for years. The places that give us the best food for the best value haven't changed just because Newark is hot again. Here are this issue's picks for the best food in each of the city's five wards. If you haven't already, make sure you try them out ... and tell them we sent you!

## SOUTH WARD Kings Restaurant

327 Lyons Ave.  
(973) 926-2177 | [kingsrestaurant1.com](http://kingsrestaurant1.com)

Billing itself as "The Finest Halal Food in Town," Kings Restaurant has been serving the Newark area since 1993. They pride themselves on serving healthy and affordable food, like their \$9.99 chicken and waffle dinner. For those unfamiliar, the word "halal" is an Arabic word that refers to meat being prepared according to Muslim law. For example, not allowing the chicken to touch pork, which is good news for folks with pork allergies or aversions.



ADEGAGRILL

## EAST WARD Adegagrill

130 Ferry Street  
(973) 589-8830 | [adegagrill.com](http://adegagrill.com)

Adega means "wine cellar" in Portuguese, and that was the design inspiration for this inviting lounge. Stone fireplaces, wrought iron cellar gates and other intricate details combine to create a romantic, date-night ambience. The cuisine is considered fine Portuguese dining, which includes a vast selection of both seafood and meat. One of their patrons said the portions were so big, they could have fed themselves for a week. Plus, a wine list with over 180 selections—not to mention plentiful sangria—doesn't hurt.

## WEST WARD Blueberry Cafe

547 Central Avenue  
(973) 732-1711 | [iloveblueberrycafe.com](http://iloveblueberrycafe.com)

With a slogan like, Your organs will love you, you know the food at Blueberry Café has to be healthy. Described as a juice bar and vegan grille, Blueberry Café offers organic, cold pressed juices; smoothies; vegan wraps; and even a few soups. The café endeavors to bring healthy food options into urban communities—an admirable goal that seems to be paying off. The real-people reviews on Yelp! are very positive and some of the customers are impressed that Blueberry Café offers dishes associated with Dr. Sebi—an herbalist who believes that the body can cure anything via an alkaline diet.

## NORTH WARD North Newark Barbeque

344 Bloomfield Avenue  
(973) 484-5393 | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/northnewarkbarbeque)

This casual, cash-only spot has been a part of the Newark landscape for years. Not only do they offer some of the best prices around (half a chicken for \$5), but customers consistently rate them as excellent. North Newark Barbeque cooks up some amazing barbeque but they offer quite a bit more than that. Some of their most popular dishes are pork ribs, empanadas, and scrumptious homemade flan.

## CENTRAL WARD Vonda's Kitchen

183 W Kinney St  
(973) 732-4532 | [vondaskitchennj.com](http://vondaskitchennj.com)

After a decade of working as a sales executive for Fortune 500 corporations, Vonda McPherson experienced an epiphany of sorts. She left the security of her successful corporate career to try her hand at restaurant ownership. McPherson offers such decadent fare as a Kitchen Mac Bowl made with smoked Gouda, Wisconsin Cheddar and beef bacon or Buffalo chicken in her modern, laid-back restaurant. "We provide the comfort food that everyone loves," says McPherson. [EN](#)



VONDA'S KITCHEN