



North Carolina's Roadside Eateries: A Traveler's Guide to Local Restaurants, Diners, and Barbecue Joints

D.G. Martin
Chapel Hill, NC: University of
North Carolina Press, 2024.
188 pp. \$20.00.
ISBN 978-1-4696-6093-6

Is it possible for readers to be given a tour of roadside eating attractions in North Carolina? Does North Carolina have a variety of restaurants to suit every traveler's needs? In the book, *North Carolina's Roadside Eateries: A Traveler's Guide to Local Restaurants, Diners, and Barbecue Joints*, author D.G. Martin introduces readers to a multitude of interesting restaurants to be found just off Interstate 26, Interstate 40, Interstates 73 & 74, Interstate 77, Interstate 85, and Interstate 95. For those readers unfamiliar with North Carolina barbecue, the author explains the difference between Western-style NC barbecue (vinegar & ketchup-based) versus Eastern-style North Carolina barbecue (strictly vinegar-based). At the beginning of each chapter, which features a North Carolina interstate highway, the author provides a brief description of the interstates and where they crisscross the state.

To gain some perspective into the popularity of each featured restaurant, D.G. Martin interviews the restaurant owners or includes the recommendations of his friends. Some of the restaurants included in the book have colorful names such as the following: *Moose Café* (Interstate 26), *12 Bones Smokehouse* (Interstate 40), *Soprano's Italian Restaurant* (Interstates 73 & 74), *Randy's BBQ* (Interstate 77), *Catfish Cove Seafood* (Interstate 85), and *White Swan Bar-B-Q & Fried Chicken* (Interstate 95).

D.G. Martin's book is an interesting work for all North Carolina restaurant enthusiasts as each restaurant is described in terms of local address, contact telephone number, business hours, food choices, directions to the restaurant from the highway, and local attractions to explore after dining at the specific restaurant. If potential visitors have a GPS system in their cars, the author provides maps in each chapter with a legend placing the number on the map with a specific restaurant. To provide some context for the

popularity of the restaurant, D.G. Martin provides customer feedback and restaurant photos.

North Carolina's Roadside Eateries: A Traveler's Guide to Local Restaurants, Diners, and Barbecue Joints, is a revised and expanded edition of the author's original work published in 2016. Before writing *North Carolina's Roadside Eateries*, the author had a varied background, including serving as former host of UNC-TV's *NC Bookwatch* program (1999-2021), practicing law in Charlotte for 20 years, and serving in leadership positions at UNC Pembroke, North Carolina Central University, and the Trust for Public Land.

This book is intended to offer a glimpse into the variety of restaurants available to travelers in North Carolina who want to enjoy good food and conversation away from the busy interstates. Because of its specific scope, *North Carolina's Roadside Eateries: A Traveler's Guide to Local Restaurants, Diners, and Barbecue Joints* would be appropriate for inclusion in any public library or academic library with a focus on North Carolina popular culture.

David W. Young
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
