

Café Django • FARMbloomington • Nick's English Hut • The Rail
The Trojan Horse • The Video Saloon

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

AFTER Dark

A Guide to B-town's Nightlife



Music *on the* Menu

The mere mention of Café Django has set mouths watering for the past 15 years—the signature Nutty Noodles sautéed in peanut sauce, the savory Momo dumplings, the many variations of curry.

Things have continued to flourish in the past year and a half, under the oversight of owner Linda Eversoll, who had worked there for four years as a bartender and server (customers know her better as Chana). Eversoll drew upon her native Peru's cuisine to create a distinctive Asian-Peruvian fusion eatery, “one of only three or four in the U.S.,” she says. The music schedule at the all-ages venue now includes concerts on most Wednesdays through Sundays, and the last Tuesday of every month marks the Django Jazz Jam, featuring the younger member/musicians of Jazz From Bloomington. World-music groups bring rhythm from around the globe to the café a couple of times a month.

It's all best enjoyed with a glass of sangria; exclusive Busted Knuckle Ale on tap; a bottle of beer from a long list of domestics, microbrews, and imports; or wine from around the globe—or as close as Oliver Winery.

“People tell us they come for the food and to enjoy a great show in a nice ambience,” says Eversoll. The sheer spectrum of talented jazz performers in Bloomington has amazed her, she says. “It makes me so happy when some of the musicians that had graduated and moved away call me to tell me they are visiting friends in Bloomington, or are touring through, and want to stop by and play here again.” —Anne Kendall

Hours: Open until 10:30 pm Sunday-Thursday, 11:30 pm Friday-Saturday.
116 N. Grant St., 812-335-1297, cafedjango.org

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A Bloomington Institution, An IU Tradition

There's one thing that Nick's English Hut has that other bars in Bloomington will never have: a long, colorful history that's woven into the fabric of both IU and Bloomington.

What began as a soda fountain and candy store in 1927 by founder Nick Hrisomalos, a young immigrant from Rapsani, Greece, eventually became a bar. Only the second business in Bloomington to get a liquor license after Prohibition, Nick's started serving beer, wine, and cocktails in 1934 and soon attracted IU students and faculty as well as local residents.

Hrisomalos passed away in 1953, on the same day the IU basketball team won its second national championship. The business was eventually sold to Dick Barnes in 1957, and under his ownership during the next five decades Nick's expanded with the opening of the Attic, the Hump Room, and the Hoosier Room.

Nick's rich history is on display wherever you decide to sit to enjoy a burger and beer.

Photographs of famous customers (Barack Obama as a presidential candidate is high on the list) and not-so-famous customers decorate the walls amid IU memorabilia. Notes in booths inform bar-goers that, say, writer Kurt Vonnegut once sat in this very spot.

"We're very proud to be associated with Bloomington and IU," co-owner Gregg "Rags" Rago says. "As the third owner, we want to protect the natural progression of Nick's."

Nick's prides itself on serving drinks and food from local vendors. Nine local beers are currently on tap, and customers can also find quality cocktails that Nick's was known for in its earliest days. The menu features burgers with Fischer Farms Black Angus Premium Natural Beef, fresh salads, and pizza whose recipe hasn't changed since 1954. Perhaps most popular—still—is the Stromboli.

With 52 high-definition TVs, Nick's is the place to watch IU football and basketball



The original bar downstairs at Nick's. Photo by Shannon Zahnle

games. Its comfortable atmosphere attracts college students, regulars, families, and alumni—some enjoying their first trip back to Bloomington in decades.

"Alumni who went to school here enjoy bringing their kids in and talking about their college days," Rago says. "Once they walk in that door, they feel like they're 21 all over again." —Rosie Piga Pizzo

HOURS: 11 am-2 am Monday-Saturday,
noon-midnight Sunday.
423 E. Kirkwood, 812-332-4040,
nicksenglishhut.com



A Bloomington
Tradition Since
1927

423 E. Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington
812-332-4040





As we approach the end of another year, we want to say, "Thank you" to all of our friends who choose to make Nick's an ongoing part of your lives. We know you have a choice of many wonderful restaurants throughout our city and we are thankful for your business.

In the New Year you will see our continued commitment to featuring local foods, spirits and craft beer, along with a variety of other great menu selections. We are proud to support local and sustainable farming by offering the freshest locally produced goods on our menu whenever possible.

This year saw a great many improvements at Nick's. Our expanded downstairs Family Dining is welcoming to young and old, while our upstairs Hoosier Room has improved seating to better view one of the 25 HD TV's. And, we've added to our menu a classic cocktail and craft beer selection.

You are a valuable member of the Nick's family. We are always happy to see you for lunch, dinner or just an after-game drink. Thank you and we wish you the very best for the New Year.

Best Wishes & Happy Holidays,
Gregg "Rags" Rago & Susan Bright

nicksenglishhut.com



by day

Home of the "Lugar Burger" **voted best burger in Indiana**, TV Food Network Magazine May 2009
 One of *Bon Appetit's* Favorite Breakfast Spots in America, January 2009



by night

FARMshine Cocktails featuring local ingredients, Beer Specials, \$2 PBRs
 Bloomington's #1 Saturday Dance Party featuring Soul in the Hole in the Root Cellar Bar.



pictures by Cliff Gagliardo

Farm bloomington is available for events of all sizes

812.323.0002 108 East Kirkwood
www.farm-bloomington.com

Gettin' Down *on the* FARM

When the sun goes down, things are just warming up at FARMbloomington. Renowned Chef Daniel Orr's restaurant has rock-solid foodie credentials—including write-ups in *Bon Appetit* and *Food Network* magazines—but it definitely knows how to party, too. Belly up to the FARMbar for cocktails made with the locavore ingredients the eatery is known for—this time of year, the Holiday Mojito tempts with Rhum Barbancourt 5 Star, local maple syrup, fresh lime juice, and mint, plus cranberries and falernum—a syrup with hints of almond, ginger, and cloves. Munch on the addictive Garlic Chili Fries while catching classic films on the FARMbar TV.

Then head downstairs to the Root Cellar Lounge, "the best watering hole in Bloomington," says General Manager Harry Shafer. Order a Hipster Spritzer (champagne and, natch, Pabst Blue Ribbon) or sip one of the many microbrews. There's bourbon to satisfy any connoisseur, and a highlight of the constantly changing cocktail menu is the Kentucky Kosmo (bourbon, lime juice, cranberry, and Sprite).

Whip out your obscure knowledge for Tuesday-night trivia, or catch a Ryder Film Series flick on Thursday nights, followed by live music. DJs spin mostly oldies at Friday- and Saturday-night dance parties, where stars such as Joan Baez, John Mellencamp, Booker T, and Bankie Banx have all been seen. "It's unlike any other bar in town," says Ben Wood, Root Cellar manager. "You get a much more personal feel from the staff, an all-around positive vibe, friendly people from every demographic. Combined with very tasty—and strong—drinks, you can't beat it." —Anne Kendall

*Root Cellar Hours: open late Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
 108 E. Kirkwood, 812-323-0002, farm-bloomington.com*



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New Home of *Fine Food* And the *Classic Cocktail*

Housed in the old train depot off North Walnut is a new addition to the Bloomington bar scene. The Rail, which opened in September, serves pre-Prohibition-style cocktails, made by combining fresh juices, fruits, and herbs with simple syrups and spirits.

"We're bringing back the art of the cocktail," says owner and Bloomington native Andy Aronis. "We're mixing drinks the way it was done before artificially flavored vodkas and martinis were popular." It's a style that celebrates and strengthens the true flavor of traditional liquors, he says. The Pisco Sour, Old Fashioned Whiskey Cocktail, and Vesper Martini are just a few of the classic mixed drinks currently being crafted by mixologist and co-owner Colin Boilini.

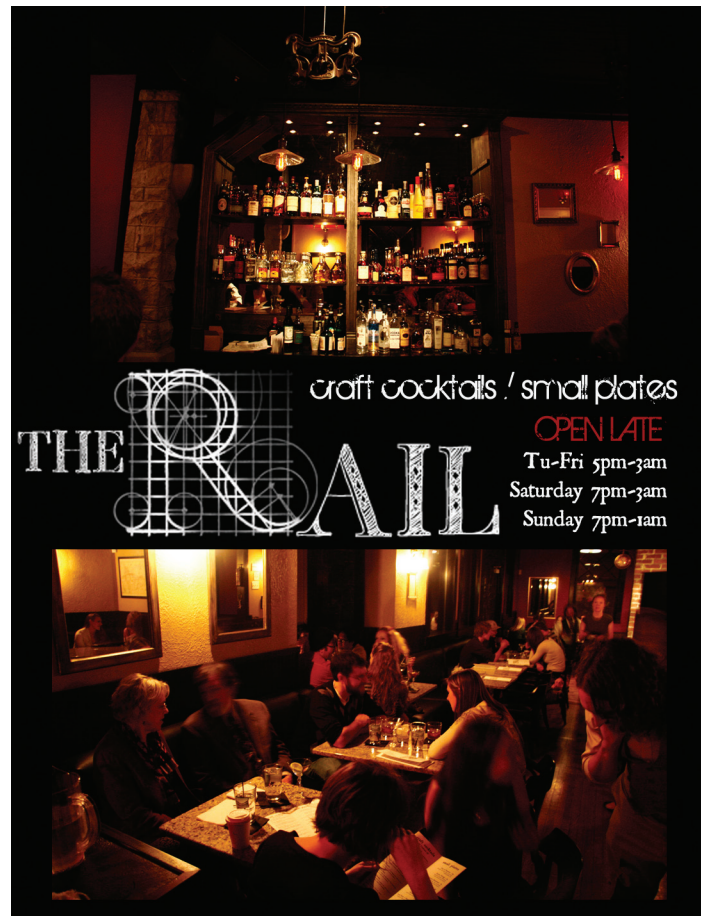
But The Rail is more than just a bar, mixing simple yet glamorous drinks. It's also a haven for fine-food lovers. Gourmet appetizers and small plates, such as lamb sliders and potato pancakes with fried quail eggs, are served late into the night. "There was no place in Bloomington that catered to people returning from a show or the theater," says Aronis. "We wanted to create a place where they could come, eat delicious food, and enjoy a classier bar environment."

Jacob Fehrenbach, former sous chef at Upland's Bloomington Brew Pub, is the mastermind behind the 10-item menu, which changes seasonally and offers items ranging in price from four to ten dollars.

The owners of The Rail also own the cozy and appropriately named House Bar, located in a house just down the hill.

"If there is a wait for a table at The Rail, we can send people next door for a drink," says Aronis. "What could be better?" —Molly Johnson

HOURS: 5 pm-3 am Tuesday to Friday, 7 pm-3 am Saturday, 7 pm-1 am Sunday. 825 N. Walnut, 812-325-1111, The Rail is on Facebook



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