

RESTAURANTS + BARS

Dining calendar: October wine dinners, food festivals and other delicious parties



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Nightmare on Bagley open for the season: Seasonal Halloween-themed bar Nightmare on Bagley is open for the spooky season with themed drinks, ghoulish decor and a soundtrack to match. The place is run by InLaws Hospitality, the same group behind Green Dot Stables, Johnny Noodle King and others. Open 5 p.m. daily through Nov. 5. 2545 Bagley, Detroit. onbagley.com.

Oktoberfest at Dakota Inn: Authentic German cuisine, beer and wine are always on the menu at the Dakota Inn, but during Oktoberfest, there is more of that, plus sing-alongs, live German bands, chicken hats and more festive fun. Make a reservation to sit in the dining room, but walk-ins can be seated in the basement rathskeller or in the tented beer garden, weather permitting. 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat. through Oct. 25. 17324 John R, Detroit. (313) 867-9722. dakota-inn.com.

Michigan Craft Beer Stroll in Downtown Royal Oak: Stroll around Main Street and try signature dishes from 20 participating restaurants paired with craft beer from some of the state's top breweries at this annual self-guided event. This year, there's also a chili cookoff where guests can sample, vote for their favorites and enter to win prizes. Noon-4 p.m. Sat. \$50. Downtown Royal Oak. DineRoyalOak.org.

A Night for Sight at the Townsend Hotel: This gala will fund grants for Michigan vision research and health screenings and ophthalmology education

services. Tickets include a welcome reception and silent auction followed by a seated dinner and live auction, ending with dessert, music and a chance to network. Black tie optional. 6-10 p.m. Sat. Tickets start at \$500. 100 Townsend, Birmingham. anfs.org.

Street Beet's "Taco Hell" at Fred's on Gratiot: Street Beet's take on Taco Bell is a crowd favorite, and it's back for a limited time. Check out plant-based versions of gordita crunches and more, and show up early because food is expected to sell out. 4 p.m. Oct. 6. 2761 E. Gratiot, Detroit. Streetbeet.online.

Dine Out in Downtown Clarkston: Dine out at one of six downtown Clarkston restaurants and help raise funds for scholarships for Clarkston High School graduates and other initiatives. On Oct. 8 only, 25% of sales from dine-in orders at Bunkhouse Burgers, Clarkston Union Bar & Kitchen, the Fed, Honcho, Rudy's Prime Steakhouse and Union Woodshop will benefit the Dine Out program, which was started in 2017 by Bowman Chevrolet.

Cider in the City at Beacon Park: Sip cider and enjoy doughnuts from Blake's Farms, pick out a pumpkin to take home and relax on a horse-drawn hayride through the park during these family-friendly weekends. There are also seasonal market vendors, food trucks and a big screen for watching football games. 1-5 p.m. Oct. 11-12 and 18-19 plus "fall after dark" 6-10:30 p.m. Oct. 18. Free admission. 1903 Grand River, Detroit. DTEBeaconPark.com.

Grand opening at the Spice & Tea Exchange: This store and tea bar has more than 85 handcrafted seasonings that are blended in-store daily plus loose-leaf teas, aromatics and accessories. There's also a full-service bar with hot and cold small-batch tea. The grand opening weekend for this new location is Oct. 11-13. Hours 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Fri.-Sat. and noon-5 p.m. Sun. 322 W. Main, Brighton. Spiceandtea.com.

Stone crabs return at O'Brien's Crab House: It's not every day you can get Atlantic stone crab at restaurants in Metro Detroit, but O'Brien's Crab House will

have them for a limited time starting Oct. 17. Reservations are highly recommended. Open daily at 4 p.m. 621 Opdyke, Auburn Hills. (248) 332-7744. Obrienscrabhouse.com.

Uncork for a Cure at M1 Concourse: More than a dozen chefs from Metro Detroit's top restaurants will gather for a multi-course experience to support breast cancer research, with wines curated by Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon. The 10th annual Cork for a Cure features cuisine from James Rigato of Mabel Gray, Edgar Torres and Ricardo Mojica from Vecino, Mamba Hamissi from Baobab Fare, John Vermiglio and Joe Giacomino from Grey Ghost, John Yelinek of Ladder 4 Wine Bar (which just received the [Resy One to Watch Award](#) in Las Vegas), Brad Green Hill of Takoi, Andy Hollyday of Selden Standard and Ji Hye Kim of Miss Kim. 6 p.m. Oct. 18. \$375 and up. 45399 Woodward, Pontiac. dynamifoundation.org/uncork-for-a-cure.

Michigan Harvest Vegetarian Epicurean Feast at Black Star Farms: Michigan chefs, including James Beard Award winner Jimmy Schmidt, Amber Poupore and George Vutetatkis, will collaborate for a dinner that will be filmed for the documentary "Detroit: City of Chefs III" by Keith Famie. The dinner includes four-five vegetarian courses with wine pairings. 6:30-9 p.m. Oct. 23. \$275 per person. 10844 E. Revold, Suttons Bay. blackstarfarms.com/events.

SOCK Dinner at Huntington Place: The signature fundraising event for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, the 53rd annual SOCK Dinner (Support Our Capuchin Kitchen), returns this month to raise \$750,000 to help those in need in Detroit. Tickets to the fundraiser include a cocktail reception, gourmet sit-down dinner, valet parking and an afterglow. There is also a live and silent auction. 5:30-11 p.m. Oct. 24. \$300 per person, \$150 per young professional (40 and younger). 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit. Sockdinner.org.

Detroit Fall Beer Festival at Eastern Market: One of the largest tastings featuring all Michigan-brewed beer, this 16th annual Detroit Fall Beer Festival returns this month. Tickets include a sample cup and 15 tokens for 3-ounce beer

samples. Additional tokens can be purchased at the party. 1-6 p.m. Oct. 25. \$60 in advance, \$70 day of. Eastern Market, Detroit. mibeer.com/Events/detroit-fall-beer-festival.

Evening of Hope at Motor City Casino: This 48th annual event in support of the Michigan chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation features a gourmet, seated dinner with open bar following cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres. There will be live entertainment, silent and live auctions and a program with speakers and honorees. 6 p.m. Oct. 26. Tickets start at \$250 per person. 2901 Grand River, Detroit. crohnscolitisfoundation.org/events/evening-of-hope-17.

More restaurant news

Saint John's Resort ranked No. 1: Plymouth's Saint John's Resort — a luxury hotel, dining destination, event facility and golf course — has been ranked the No. 1 best hotel, best resort and best business hotel in Michigan by U.S. New & World Report. The ranking was based on guest reviews, industry awards and other factors. 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth. (734) 414-0600. saintjohnsresort.com.

Pinnacle Guide honors Standby and Castalia: Detroit cocktail bar and restaurant Standby has been awarded 2 Pins (outstanding) from the Pinnacle Guide. Castalia in Detroit was awarded One Pin (excellent). The global platform has a 1, 2 and 3 Pins recognition system for the best bars in the world and recognized 61 bars this year. A total of 146 bars in 14 countries has been pinned since the system started in 2024. Visit thepinnacleguide.com for more information.

Mootz Pizzeria + Bar adds new menu items: Popular downtown pizzeria Mootz has refreshed its menu for the fall season with new hearty dishes such as broccoli rabe and sausage, lasagna frita (deep-fried lasagna balls), chicken Parmesan, eggplant Parmesan and chicken Milanese. The kitchen is also bringing back the "Holy Cheezus" pizza with tons of cheese and black pepper. Open daily for lunch and dinner. 1230 Library, Detroit. (313) 234-1230. mootzpizzeria.com.

— *Melody Baetens*

