

## Metromix- 9News

<http://denver.metromix.com/restaurants>

### **Barker Lounge**

Hanging at the Barker Lounge is like relaxing at a good friend's home. Not surprising since the owner got the idea to open it after the popularity of his own basement bar he had going at home. Cheery comfortable atmosphere with images of old Hollywood's starlets on the walls and ceiling and a 1932 old wood bar. There's a large patio with its own drinks stash outside that sports a summertime BBQ. Perched on the edge of the Baker District, the owner says the bar has a mixed straight-gay crowd, or in his words is a good "stray bar."

### **Celestial Seasonings**

What started out as two guys picking herbs around Boulder and Aspen, packaging them in muslin bags and then selling them to natural food stores has turned into an international business doing over 1.4 million cups of tea a year. This Boulder landmark offers one of the only remaining working factory tours in the country. Stop by for a free tour and see your chamomile and Sleepytime favorites being milled and packaged. You can choose to sample Celestial's new coffee selections or over 100 teas, or grab a bite in the Celestial Café. There are tables inside and out on a patio to kick back and sip some of the good stuff.

### **Coal Creek Coffee**

Browse the new and used book titles while you sip espresso and munch one of the baked in-house hunks of coffee cake, muffins and turnovers. You can also have soup or sandwiches in this rustic, mountain café up Coal Creek Canyon that used to be called the Cosmic Coffee House. The place is super-mountain-chill with bookshelves covering the walls and free wireless for you techie types.

### **Guido's Pizza 2**

When I asked the owner what makes his pizza special, he said because he gives a sh\*t about it. He doesn't just pick up pre-made stuff at the distributors like some people he knows. He's dishing up New York-style pizza, hot and cold grinders, gyros and calzones just outside of downtown Morrison in the Green Mountain Village Shops. There are actually two other Guido's, one that's been up in Genesee for about 25 years and another down in a surf-shack down in Costa Rico.

### **La Ballerina**

Mexican bar on the corner of W. Colfax and Eaton. For some reason, this bar is open nineteen hours a day. You can have burritos, tamales and taquitos for breakfast, lunch and dinner. You'll have to wait until 3 p.m. for happy hour but it goes until 9 p.m. (Monday through Thursday only). Drinks are half-off in the happy zone. As far as décor, what some people call romantic, others just call "dim lighting" but I'll let you be the judge of that.

### **Putt n Pub**

Amble into this Irish/biker bar out on W. Colfax at Wadsworth if you're looking to unwind in a grab-bag of company. If Irish + biker piques your attention, you won't be disappointed by the many walks of life hanging around playing pool or darts, or tapping their foot to the live music on Friday nights. You can get three squares here too, starting with French toast to soak up the juice from the night before, or a burger dinner to soften the blow for your stomach as you mosey up for the \$1 off drinks at happy hour.

### **Country Gardens**

If you're craving a bit of your old innocence from days gone by, why not schedule a tea party with your girlfriends, or if you have them, kids? It's great for wedding showers or birthday parties too. The Tea House is only open when there's a scheduled party happening, so don't swing by expecting a cuppa Earl Grey. They serve a lunch tea and a high tea – both come with finger sandwiches, soup and dessert but the high tea adds in quiche, an appetizer plate and more desserts. There are special hats for the adult to wear and dress-up clothes for the kids.

### **Hooters**

Hoot, hoot! Yup, it's everybody's favorite owl with the big, round full saucer-like – whoa, this Hooters is actually very family friendly so wise owl says "Bring the ankle-biters in to eat free on Saturdays!" The waitresses still wear their trademark white tank tops and orange underwe-, oops, I mean, shorts so Dad will be happy (but be aware that Wednesdays is costume night.) There are wings with all those spicy sauces, plus crab legs, shrimp and burgers. Lots of customer interaction with silly races, balloons, and drink give-aways.