
Introducing 'Essential CLE,' a new visitors guide to the 'Best of Cleveland' restaurants, bars and things to do

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ESSENTIAL

EAT • DRINK • PLAY



OUR EXPERTS. THE BEST OF CLEVELAND.



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CLEVELAND, Ohio — Today, we launch "Essential CLE" — a new searchable guide to the best "Eat," "Drink" and "Play" options in Northeast Ohio.

When it comes to eating, drinking and playing, not many Midwest towns can compare to Cleveland. The array of great restaurants, bars and cultural attractions in Northeast Ohio is dizzying, so dizzying that it pays to have a guide like this.

You can check it out at cleveland.com/visitors-guide

Think of it as your in-the-know online Cleveland concierge. That's how we envisioned it when we began work on the project a year ago. We didn't want a run-of-the-mill entertainment calendar, or a collection of simple listings. We built "Essential CLE" as a guide capable of serving up smart, instant and trusted recommendations for the very best restaurants, bars and things to do in the region.

To do that, we enlisted the help of writers and critics at cleveland.com and our partners at The Plain Dealer, folks with with decades of experience covering restaurants, bars and culture in the CLE. They know the city, the region and its secrets. So, we built the database around their recommendations, with an eye on capturing "The Best of Cleveland."

We think the result is pretty cool — a robust collection of more than 1,100 Restaurant, Bar and Things to Do entries, organized in 10 "neighborhoods" and searchable in a variety of other ways, too.

It's intuitive and easy to navigate.

Start with "Near Me" on your phone when you are on the go around town. Pick an "Eat-Drink-Play" category and the guide delivers the 10 best recommendations nearest to you. Be sure to enable the location services on your mobile device (or computer).

Refine that search and delve deeper. The 10 best Italian restaurants near you? No problem. Best dance clubs? Best shopping? Done. All based on your location - whether it be downtown, at University Circle or out along the lakeshore east or west of the city.

You can also search for recommendations on a regional level, or by neighborhood. Looking for great restaurants, bars and things to do Downtown, in Tremont, Ohio City, University Circle or on the Near West Side? The guide will produce results in seconds. Want a broader list of the 10 best restaurants, bars and attractions in all of Northeast Ohio? A simple search will get you those recommendations, too.

There's even an "Authentic Cleveland" category — a guide to restaurants, bars and attractions that are quintessentially CLE. The West Side Market. A Christmas Story House. Michael Symon's Lola Bistro. And more,.

"Essential CLE" will be handy to visitors and tourists, of course. But we hope it will be just as valuable to fun-seeking locals, too.

We are an acclaimed foodie city, internationally recognized for our booming restaurant scene. Our bars are packed and plentiful — our craft-beer scene arguably the best in the state. And things to do? The city is renowned for its world-class arts and cultural offerings, from the Cleveland Orchestra and the Cleveland Museum of Art to Playhouse Square and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

Other attractions abound. Lake Erie beaches and boating. A renowned park system, including a sprawling federal reserve in the Cuyahoga Valley. Pro sports. Casinos. Shopping. Family fun.

One of the world's great amusement parks, Cedar Point, is less than 90 minutes away. Ditto the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

We think the "Essential CLE" guide will give you a great roadmap to it all. It really is a very cool tool, and a testament to the Cleveland's cultural richness.

Give it a try and tell us what you think.

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