

Cooking's For The Birds

Don't slice and dice your way to a turkey dinner. This year, let someone else do the cooking.

So there might be a host of you out there that revel in the actual preparation of Thanksgiving dinner. Brining and roasting the turkey, mashing the potatoes, mixing the dressing, baking the pies—that's what you enjoy the most. But for the rest of you, all you really want to do is, well, eat. So if you'd much rather leave all the slicing and dicing and roasting and toasting to the pros, then you're in luck because this Thanksgiving you've got about as many fine dining and to-go options as there are recipes for the perfect pumpkin pie.



HALF THE TROUBLE

You rely on Whole Foods Market for much of your regular shopping, so why not leave Thanksgiving dinner up to it as well? The specialty grocer features several holiday menu options you can tailor to suit your needs. Don't want to mess with the turkey? Then go with the "Just the Bird" option, where you can choose from cooked, uncooked and organic birds. And if you want to cook the turkey and leave the sides up to the store, you can do that, too. Of course, you can go ahead and just get the entire dinner ready-made right up until Nov. 26. Multiple Atlanta locations. wholefoods.com.

Whole Foods has so many Thanksgiving meal options you can choose from, there's bound to be one that suits your needs.

HIGH ROLLERS

Two of the city's most renowned hotels, The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead and the Four Seasons are both featuring Thanksgiving meal options. At The Ritz-Carlton you can enjoy a generous brunch with all of the traditional Thanksgiving trimmings from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and the kids even can decorate cookies while you relax over coffee. Park 75 at Four Seasons, on the other hand, is featuring two full buffets, one from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and another from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Both seatings will include all the traditional Thanksgiving goodies and a slew of desserts. The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, 404.237.2700 or ritzcarlton.com; Park 75 at Four Seasons, 404.253.3840 or fourseasons.com.

TIP TOP TURKEY

For the best view of the city on turkey day, nothing beats The Sun Dial Restaurant, Bar and View. And this year the revolving restaurant atop the Westin Peachtree Plaza will feature a menu that will rival the sights—think truffled potato and leek soup with fried oyster and American caviar, or duck confit with lingonberry jam and roasted duck jus—and that's just for starters. Entrée options include favorites like herb-roasted turkey with all the trimmings or herb-crusted prime rib with horseradish mashed potatoes and Parmesan Brussels sprouts. Noon to 8 p.m. 404.589.7506 or sundialrestaurant.com.

THANKSGIVING 101

It's all about the South at Food 101's Thanksgiving dinner. Chef Justin Keith will be whipping up a special Southern-inspired Thanksgiving meal the restaurant will serve up family style. Dinner includes an appetizer, four sides and a choice of meat. Noon to 6 p.m. 404.497.9700 or food101atlanta.com.

MAKE MINE FROM MURPHY'S

It's been a Virginia Highland mainstay for more than 25 years, so if you can't go to Murphy's for Thanksgiving, at least you can take Murphy's home. This year you can get a turkey feast to go, complete with dishes like greens with walnuts, blue cheese and balsamic vinaigrette, molasses mashed sweet potatoes, farm bread and sausage stuffing with dried fruit, and cider baked apples. And with 10-inch pumpkin, pecan and Dutch apple pies also available to go, well, it really is just about eating. 404.872.0904 or murphysvh.com.

LEFTOVERS AND EVERYTHING

If you can't stand the thought of no turkey leftovers, head to 103 West's fourth annual Thanksgiving Day feast. The family-style meal is prepared by executive chef Matt Rainey and includes a whole roasted Ashley Farms turkey, several classic sides and a dessert buffet. The best part of this family dinner is every guest leaves with their very own leftovers, complete with turkey and the trimmings. Because what's Thanksgiving without the leftovers? Noon to 5 p.m. 404.233.5993 or buckheadrestaurants.com.

KILLER EATS

So you'd like options other than turkey and dressing this year? Well, Ray's Killer Creek and Ray's on the River have plenty. Ray's Killer Creek will be serving everything off its regular menu—New York strip anyone?—plus special Thanksgiving dishes. It's buffets all day at Ray's on the River, with the famous brunch buffet in the morning and early afternoon and a more traditional Thanksgiving buffet later in the day and evening. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Ray's Killer Creek, 770.649.0064; Ray's on the River, 770.955.1187 or raysrestaurants.com.

ONE STOP SHOP

In a nutshell, if Alon's Bakery & Market doesn't have it, you probably don't need it for your Thanksgiving dinner. Both locations offer everything from hors d'oeuvres and appetizers (think brie with pumpkin marmalade or crab and artichoke dip) to whole roasted or smoked turkey, homemade side dishes, fresh breads, and sweet pies and desserts. All you have to do is decide what to order. Virginia Highland, 404.872.6000; Park Place, 678.397.1781 or alons.com.

SIR MIX-A-LOT

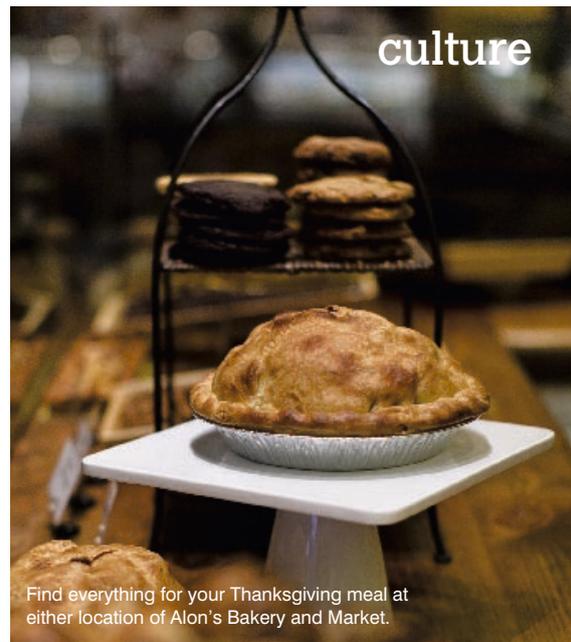
If you're on the north side of town, executive chef Brian Obermeyer is putting together quite a spread at Pastis Restaurant & Bar in Roswell. The restaurant's Thanksgiving buffet will feature traditional holiday sides like fried chicken, turkey and gravy, garlic sausage stuffing, and sweet potato purée, as well as other not-so-traditional turkey day dishes like oysters on the half shell, seared salmon, grilled asparagus and homemade pommes frites. Just be sure to save room for the mini crème brûlée, apple tart and chocolate mousse desserts. Noon to 5 p.m. 770.640.3870 or roswellpastis.com.

GET OUTTA TOWN

Escape the hustle and bustle of the ATL, and chill out at The Farmhouse at Serenbe. The special Thanksgiving menu will focus on the restaurant's farm-to-table concept and will feature molasses roasted turkey breast, green bean casserole, cornbread stuffing, cranberry and orange relish, sweet potato puree and pumpkin tarts. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Reservations required. 770.463.2622 or serenbefarmhouse.com.

SHINING STAR

Of course, we'd be crazy to talk turkey to go without including Star Provisions, where you can find free-range, organic Heritage turkeys and free-range, organic, and hormone- and antibiotic-free Eberly turkeys—cooked or uncooked. Star even will brine them for you for just \$2 a pound. And it's not a meal without the side dishes, like Yukon gold potato purée, sage and apple dressing, broccoli and cheese casserole, braised collard



Find everything for your Thanksgiving meal at either location of Alon's Bakery and Market.



Star Provisions offers fresh baked pies, organic and free-range turkeys and many classic sides.

greens, fresh yeast rolls, and, of course, holiday cupcakes and fresh baked pies. Just be sure to place your order by Nov. 22 at 5 p.m. 404.365.0410 or starprovisions.com.

NEIGHBORLY LOVE

If you have no doubt you're ordering in this year, Highland Bakery starts taking orders for its to-go turkey dinners Nov. 1. The neighborhood favorite has turkey, ham and all the Southern sides (corn bread dressing, sweet potato soufflé, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans and more). Plus you know the place has some of the best rolls, breads and pies in town. 404.586.0772 or highlandbakery.com.

JUST IN TIME

If you're one to wait until the last minute, pick up the phone and call Justin's Restaurant & Bar. The Southern-inspired soul food restaurant owned in part by Sean "Diddy" Combs will offer to-go orders that will include turkey and all the traditional Southern sides that can be picked up right until 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving day. 404.603.5353 or justinsrestaurant.com. —SARAH GLEIM