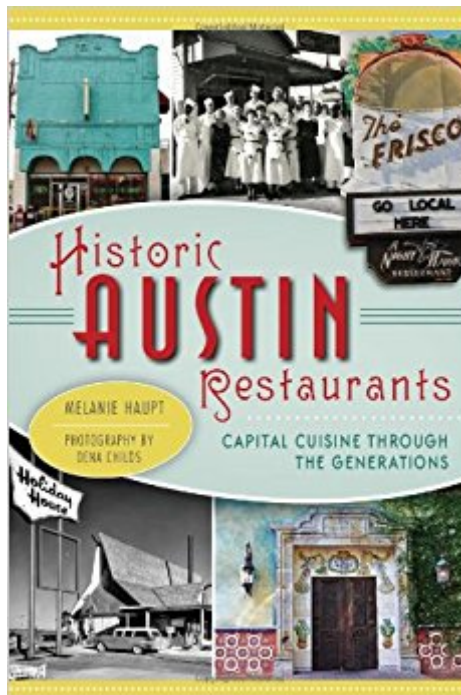




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Historic Austin Restaurants: Capital Cuisine Through The Generations (American Palate)



Synopsis

Austin has staked its claim as the seat of innovative culinary movements, and its food culture mirrors the transformations taking place across the city. The evolution of the east side is reflected in joints like Franklin Barbecue, while landmarks like Scholz Garten, the oldest restaurant in the capital, testify to the contributions of the town's college presence and a healthy German influence. Joe's Bakery isn't just one of the town's most beloved Tex-Mex spots; it's the place where the real wheeling and dealing in Texas politics happens. Food writer Melanie Haupt samples Austin's iconic restaurants and the rich heritage that produced them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Melanie Haupt earned her PhD in English at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a blogger and freelance writer focusing on food criticism, up and coming dining culture and historic Austin foodways. Haupt is a frequent contributor to the Chronicle and a member of the Austin Food Bloggers Alliance and Foodways Texas. Dena Childs is an e-commerce marketing manager for a yarn retailer. She spends her downtime knitting, watching movies and running. Living in Austin, Texas with her husband and two kids, she enjoys her latest passion of photography.

great gifts for those not living in Austin, Texas

This is a quick and basically interesting read if you have lived in Austin for a long time and have eaten at most of the places featured in the book. Other than that I am not sure about the intended audience. It is not a restaurant review, but just a set of stories about different restaurants - sort of a Cliff Notes history of places to eat in Austin. A recurring theme is that the wheelers and dealers and politicos "are here". (Those people must have weighed 600 pounds each given the number of establishments they apparently covered.)

Nice

Let's have a quick moment of honest Internet. This review might be a bit biased because I absolutely love the city I currently call home. Austin is awesome for so many reasons, one of them being the food. Austin does not play when it comes to comida (to which I am forever grateful). A book combining both is not only fabulous, but further proves my point of how awesome this city is. How can I not love a book like that? What was most intriguing about this book was that it showed how the changes in time and culture had such a powerful influence on the changes in food. Like Texas BBQ coming from the slaves to how post World War II prosperity lent to more drive-thru restaurants to the beloved breakfast taco, to SXSW reviving the city in the 80s to the hippie/vegetarian creations to the restaurants incorporating Tex Mex and Southern tastes. Much like the city itself. I found it completely fascinating and it perfectly explains the Austin the world knows today. Since I currently reside in Austin, I particularly enjoyed reading about the start of many of my favorites and staple restaurants (like Kerbey Lane, Torchy's Tacos and Magnolia Cafe). I was reading this on a plane ride back to Austin and had to go to Torchy's directly from the airport :). Sprinkled throughout the book are also interviews and tidbits from long time residents of Austin, restaurant owners and other folks, providing fun and additional insight into the Austin culinary culture. Also, this quote made me chuckle. It's from the chapter where Haupt discussed the growth period of the 90s and the folks who started moving to Austin: "Attracting residents from nearby as California (who became the scapegoats for everything from increasingly bad traffic to skyrocketing housing prices)." We still get blamed ;) So any foodies out there? What's one of your favorite restaurants? Oh and if you're in Austin, I promise to be your food guide! (Thank you to The History Press for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review) Originally posted at <http://booksandbeverages.org/2014/12/02/historic-austin-restaurants-capital-cuisine-generations-me>

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