

RED MILL BURGERS

312 N. 67th St.; 206-783-6362 PRICE: \$3.59

COMMENT: Meryl Streep and Rashard Lewis both ate in this neighborhood

spot in the Phinney Ridge neighborhood, which follows Northwest Coast custom in adding a lettuce leaf and its own secret sauce to the region's best burger.

IN-N-OUT BURGER

8955 Foothill Blvd., Rancho Cucamonga; 800-786-1000 PRICE: \$1.78

COMMENT: This chain makes the only fast-food burger worth its salt, but though it's nicely charred, the taste is unspectacular.



LOS ANGELES









AUSTIN, TEXAS



DIRTY'S

2808 Guadalupe St.; 512-477-3173 PRICE: \$3

COMMENT: Officially Dirty Martin's KumBak Place, it's the legendary burger spot here, sanctified by UT students. But nearby, at P. Terry's, the patties are thicker and tastier.

NICK'S TAVERN

221 Main St., Lemont, III.; 630-257-6564

PRICE: \$6.50, with cheese \$7.25 **COMMENT:** Bears fans eat big one-pound burgers here in Rust Belt exurbia. But real men should bring a pepper mill to supplement the kitchen's bush-league seasoning.

MILLER'S BAR

23700 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Mich.; 313-565-2533

PRICE: \$4.65

COMMENT: The Big Three may crumble, but Miller's is here to stay, still serving its burgers with double onion slices on waxed paper.

Our columnist

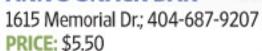
sampled burgers from coast to coast, stopping in at

roadside dives, white-tablecloth spots

and the occasional fast-food joint.

Below, some highlights.

ANN'S SNACK BAR



COMMENT: Miss Ann's stand seats only eight, making it the most exclusive-as well as the best-burger joint in America. Her "ghetto burger" is a two-patty cheeseburger with bacon, seasoned with spicy salt.

PRIMANTI BROTHERS RESTAURANT

46 18th St.; 412-263-2142 **PRICE: \$6.09**

COMMENT: All the sandwiches have fries inside thick slices of

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Italian bread. But the cheese-steak-style burger is definitely the draw.

DB BISTRO MODERNE

55 W. 44th St .: 212-391-2400 PRICE: \$32; with black truffles, \$62 **COMMENT:** Daniel Boulud's burger with

PITTSBURGH

foie gras should be renamed Fat and the City, a

seguel to the Sarah Jessica Parker vehicle cast with lonely guy gourmets. C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas un hamburger.



CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



MR. BARTLEY'S BURGER COTTAGE

1246 Massachusetts Ave.; 617-354-6559

PRICE: \$8.55

COMMENT: Bedlam at lunchtime, but the counterman is a picture of Zen serenity, broiling the burgers—juicy patties just the right thickness—that make Harvard students brilliant.

