

During the Coronavirus pandemic, many venues are limiting public access and events with safety in mind. Please call to confirm visitor details in advance. We anticipate that regular operations will resume as soon as possible. In the meantime, wash your hands frequently, stay safe, and keep calm.



About

Founders

Contact Us



Home

Regions

Cuisines

Recipes

Producers & Purveyors

Trends & Trails



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Zingerman's

Ann Arbor, Michigan's most iconic food brand

Story by Lisa Waterman Gray

What's become an institution in Ann Arbor, Michigan was launched by two college buddies: Zingerman's.

Ari Weinzweig and Paul Saginaw met while working at Maude's Restaurant and attending the University of Michigan. Bemoaning the lack of a 'good Jewish deli' in Ann Arbor, the pair decided to rectify the situation.

Today the duo's iconic local brand includes a dozen **distinct businesses**, from eating and drinking establishments to catering and event spaces plus **Zing Train**, a training program based on Zingerman's award-winning business model: Rather than franchise across the country, the co-owners opted to expand the brand within the Ann Arbor market.

Zingerman's Delicatessen opened during 1982 inside a vintage brick building. The deli still looks much as it did then. Massive cases display fresh gourmet cheeses, layered three-deep. Colorful signs advertise Kalamata olives, and **Zingerman's Creamery's** Manchester cheese.

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Photo Credit: Emma Boonstra

You can find [La Quercia Prosciutto](#) here, too. Handcrafted on an Iowa farm, it is nationally known for its quality. In the adjacent room, floor-to-ceiling shelves display a seemingly endless array of packaged sauces, spreads and spices, and every imaginable pasta shape as well as olive oils and vinegars.

At the adjacent [Zingerman's Next Door Café](#) dozens of salads, soups, sandwiches, and sweet treats await hungry customers.

Think massive Reuben or pastrami sandwiches, a simple all-beef hotdog, BBQ chicken, plus latkes and knishes.

Photo Credit: Zingermans

Approximately 15 to 20 minutes from Zingerman's Delicatessen, [Zingerman's Roadhouse](#) is known for its 'classic American' cuisine. Black vinyl booths and Formica tables fill the back dining room. Outside, a 1952 Spartan metal trailer houses a drive-up window—which is doing especially robust business during the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic also inspired the creation of Roadhouse Park, an outdoor area filled with umbrella-covered picnic tables so that takeout customers have the option to savor food on-site.

In a typical year, the James Beard-recognized restaurant serves an average of 7,000 meals per week, using locally produced ingredients to the extent possible. The results? Crunchy fried chicken dipped in buttermilk, creamy soul-satisfying Roadhouse

macaroni and cheese with Cabot cheddar and house-made béchamel, and mouthwatering barbecue served with creamy mashed potatoes and bacon-braised greens.

Save room for Ari's donut sundae. It tops a house-made Dutch donut with brown sugar, peanut halves, Zingerman's Creamery vanilla gelato, caramel-bourbon sauce, whipped cream, and a cherry.

Using local milk, Zingerman's Creamery handcrafts over a dozen cheeses using 5.1 percent fat rather than the more typical milk fat of 3.5 percent. These cheeses boast a shelf life of two weeks to one month. Options include a dense and fruity Manchester (cow's milk), a classic mini Brie (cow's milk), and the popular Detroit Street brick cheese (goat's milk) that's dotted with hand-cracked green peppercorns.

Zingerman's Creamery also offers gelato, including hazelnut, vanilla, and seasonal Michigan PawPaw gelato that's made from Michigan-grown pawpaw fruit. Deep, rich, dark chocolate gelato made with Scharffenberger dark chocolate was rated "Michigan's best" by *Detroit News*.

Foodie indulgences abound: Zingerman's fans can also order authentic Korean cuisine at [Miss Kim restaurant](#); sip premium java at [Zingerman's Coffee Company](#); and purchase freshly baked traditional breads and pastries from [Zingerman's Bakehouse](#).

Order For Delivery...

Missing Zingerman's after returning from Ann Arbor or can't get there fast enough? Order some of your favorite items for home delivery via [Zingerman's Mail Order](#).

Plan A Trip

Zingerman's Community of Businesses

Multiple locations

Ann Arbor, Michigan

*During the coronavirus pandemic, Zingerman's business have responded with various **policies** to protect guests and employees, including social distancing, mask guidelines, and water carafes on restaurant tables to help minimize staff contact. Most Zingerman's businesses have remained open through this challenging time.*

Destination Ann Arbor

Consider buying goodies at Zingerman's for a picnic. Some park options in Ann Arbor include:

- **Gallup Park**, which offers two playgrounds and grill access.
- **Nichols Arboretum**, where natural beauty is abundant.
- **County Farm Park** is family-friendly and spacious with a terrific playground and picnic tables.
- **Hudson Mills Metropark** offers plenty of picnic spots and is also home to a disc golf course and paved trails.
- **Delhi Metropark** offers kayak and canoe rentals plus opportunities for fishing.

Find accommodations in Ann Arbor, Michigan on [Tripadvisor](#)

Pure Michigan

Lisa Waterman Gray

Contributor

Previously a restaurant cook and a professional baker, as well as a catering and a cooking school assistant, Lisa Waterman Gray has written food-focused stories for dozens of publications for local, national, and international audiences. Based on the Kansas side of the Kansas City area, she loves getting a 'taste' of every destination and telling the stories behind those flavors. Learn more at www.lisawatermangray.com.



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Joseph W November 17, 2020 at 9:26 pm

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