

EXPLORE

FOOD AND DINING

Jersey Dogs, Bergen-style

BY JOYCE VENEZIA SUSS, EDITOR



GREG PALLANTE/(201) MAGAZINE

Mike Santucci and his mother, Delores, at Karl Ehmer Meats in Hillsdale



COURTESY OF CALLAHAN'S

The Callahan's food truck

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PETER MONSEES/THE RECORD

Hot off the grill from Cubby's in Hackensack



KYE-RYUNG LEE/THE RECORD

Hank's Franks in Lodi

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STAFF PHOTO

Hiram's in Fort Lee



STAFF PHOTO

An all-the-way fried hot dog (with cheese) from Hiram's in Fort Lee

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DON SMITH/THE RECORD

Midland Park's Hot Dog Caboose



ROY CARATOZZOLO III/SOUTH BERGENITE

The Hot Dog House in Carlstadt

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ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/(201) MAGAZINE

Selections from the menu at Johnny and Hanges in Fair Lawn



STAFF PHOTO

River View East in Elmwood Park

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BERNADETTE MARGINIAK/ENGLEWOOD SUBURBANITE

Rosario D'Rivera, owner and operator of Rosie's Weenie Wagon, serves a hot dog to Bill Kingsley of Ringwood.



DON SMITH/THE RECORD

Rutt's Hut in nearby Clifton

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ED HILL/THE RECORD

Fried hot dogs with mustard from Rutt's Hut in Clifton.

Even with the array of cuisines served in Bergen County restaurants, locals still love a good hot dog, and there are many places that serve many variations of this hand-held treat tucked into a bun.

There are grilled dogs, "dirty water" dogs, even deep-fried dogs served with the casing ripped open. You can have dogs topped with bright yellow mustard, deli-style coarse mustard, sauerkraut, or you can have classic Texas wieners – created in New Jersey, not the Lone Star state – topped with a thin chili sauce (no beans) and chopped raw onion. In 1920, John Patrellis started a hot dog stand in Paterson called "The Original Hot Texas Weiner," serving hot dogs covered with no-bean chili.

One of the most famous brands of hot dogs – Sabrett – was owned by Gregory Papalexis, a Norwood resident who died in 2011. His family still runs Marathon Enterprises, the Englewood-based company that distributes Sabrett hot dogs nationwide.

Hiram's in Fort Lee, which began selling hot dogs in a roadside shack in 1932, was one of the first hot dog establishments in the county. It's still in business today, joined by a multitude of other much-loved hot dog establishments in other Bergen towns.

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For more local hot dog lore, [see this story on NorthJersey.com](#).

Callahan's

[The legendary hot dog purveyor from Fort Lee is back - on wheels.](#) Find out where the truck will be by following it on Facebook.

Cubby's Barbeque

249 S. River St., Hackensack, 201-488-9389

The hot dogs are just as popular as the racks of ribs at Cubby's. Try the Dog with Fried Onions, or the classic Texas Weiner – Mild or Hot, or All the Way.

Falls View Grill

186 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland 201-337-5155

Named in tribute to an original Paterson hot dog establishment near the Great Falls, this Oakland eatery prides itself in hot dog tradition. The menu also includes roast beef, hamburgers and cheese steaks.

Hank's Franks

210 U.S. 46, Lodi, 973-473-8589

You can't miss the vintage turquoise roof at this roadside stand, in business since 1959. Try their Sabrett hot dogs (with natural casings) topped with hot onions and spicy mustard; or cooked potatoes, onions and peppers – and wash it down with an egg cream, RC Cola or even birch beer on tap. The menu is just hot dogs – no fries, no burgers – and it's cash only.

Hippie Hot Dog Hut

216 Harrison Ave., Lodi, 973-253-DOGS(3647)

Serves Sabrett pushcart style hot dogs or Thumamn's flash-fried dogs with assorted toppings. Specialty dogs are served in pizza bread. The menu also offers "Psychedelic Sides."

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Hiram's

1345 Palisades Ave., Fort Lee; 201-592-9602

The original roadside shack has been replaced, but Hiram's still has a vintage feel and is still one of the "top dogs" in the hot dog business. Fans can get their fix of fried dogs at a walk-up counter to the left, a small dining room to the right, and - unlike most hot dog joints - enjoy beer on tap too. But most customers wash down their dogs with a bottle of Yoo-hoo, the classic chocolate beverage founded in New Jersey.

Hot Dog Caboose

211 Greenwood Ave., Midland Park, 201-444-2531

Walk up to a real red caboose that serves up hot dogs with a wide range of toppings. Try the Spuds Dog topped with smashed potatoes, shredded cheddar and bacon bits, or the Taco Dog with crushed corn chips, chili, cheese and jalapenos. The caboose also serves a special Dog of the Week and homemade soups.

Hot Dog House

510 Route 17, Carlstadt, 201-935-5803

Boiled or deep fried, the hot dogs at this bright yellow roadside stand can be adorned with a wide variety of toppings, including homemade barbecue sauce; cheese and bacon; baked beans; red onions in a tangy sauce, and much more. There are also specialty dogs and an assortment of sides.

Mr. Franks

1217 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, 201-530-7666

This cozy storefront serves gourmet hot dogs. Try the Mrs. G dog, topped with avocado, chopped onions, diced tomatoes and mayo, or the Mr. Cubano with melted Swiss cheese, pickles and spicy mustard.

Nicoletti's Grille

295 Bergen Turnpike, Ridgefield Park, 201-641-7775

Famous for the hot dogs on its large menu. Try the "Three Little Pigs" - a Taylor ham, bacon-wrapped, quarter-pound hot dog.

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Ray's Links

11 McKinley Ave., Dumont, 201-588-5073

"Best of the Wursts" proclaims the sign, and the menu is creative. How about a hot dog topped with bacon marmalade and whole grain mustard, or a chicken dog, chorizo dog, bratwurst – even a hot dog-shaped falafel. The "hand-forged sodas" are made with seltzer on tap mixed with cola flavors, and fans rave about the "Breaking Good" puddings for dessert.

Johnny and Hanges

23-20 Maple Ave., Fair Lawn, 201-791-9060

The [original store in Paterson](#) is now across the Passaic River in nearby Fair Lawn, and loyal fans still flock for their fried Jersey-style Texas wieners, topped "all the way" with their secret sauce, chopped onions and mustard.

Jolly Nick's Famous Hot Dogs

31 E. Madison Ave., Dumont, 201-501-0889

Order their jumbo franks by color: Red Hots with mustard, raw onions and hot sauce; White with mustard and sauerkraut; Blue with mustard and relish; Brown with mustard; Green with mustard, peppers and onions; Gray with mustard and raw onions; Tan with mustard and red onions – and the Rainbow, topped with everything.

Karl Ehmer Meats

120 Broadway, Hillsdale, 201-664-1477

The [cart outside Karl Ehmer](#) sells hot dogs (all-beef or beef-and-pork), bratwurst, chicken sausage, chorizo and more. It has hot water compartments and a grill, so fans can choose between dirty-water dogs and char-grilled ones.

Mike's Dog House

21 W. Oakland Ave, Oakland, 201-677-0999

Mike's Dog House is the primary push cart rental business for Sabrett in the tri-state area, but he also does a brisk business selling hot dogs at his location. It's a casual atmosphere, with a wide variety of toppings. Also on the menu: beef hot sausage and potato knishes.

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Riverview East

455 River Drive, Elmwood Park, 201-797-9258

The sign outside this classic 1950s building proclaims Riverview East is "Home of the Hot Dog". Fans love their fried hot dogs "all the way" topped with chili sauce, chopped onions and mustard, with a side of fries and gravy.

Rosie's Weenie Wagon

Text 201-741-4334 to find out exact location each day

Honoring her Cuban heritage, Rosario D'Rivera sells conventional hot dogs and her signature dogs like The Cubanaso (black beans, chili, potato sticks, cheese); the Aloha Dog (roasted pineapple habañero sauce, honey mustard, chopped pineapples, crunchy onions), the Evil Devil Dawg (a mixture of chilies with eggplant, garlic and cheese) and the Kimchi Dog (kimchi, barbecue sauce, crunchy onions).

Nearby notables just outside Bergen County:

CLIFTON

The Hot Grill

669 Lexington Ave., 973-772-6000

Home of the "World's Tastiest Texas Wieners" and also known for French fries with gravy and milkshakes. Order your hot dog "all the way" for mustard, raw onions and chili sauce. They also sell their sauce separately for home use.

Rutt's Hut

417 River Road, 973-779-8615

For more than 85 years Rutt's Hut has been the destination for deep-fried hot dogs.

Midtown Grill

1218 Main Ave., 973-546-0121

Located in the heart of downtown Clifton, the Midtown Grill has an extensive menu including a Texas Wiener omelet.

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New Corral

499 Hazel St., 973-772-0941

Serving hot dogs since the 1940s, the New Corral is known for Texas Wieners with a dark, rich sauce.

[More information on these Clifton hot dog establishments.](#)

HAWTHORNE

The Goffle Grill

1140 Goffle Road, Hawthorne, 973-423-0881

Here, the Famous Texas Wiener is covered with homemade chili sauce, mustard and onions. Other popular items include milkshakes and the turkey melt.

Hot Diggity Grill

204 Diamond Bridge Ave., Hawthorne, 973-949-4905

Features Thumann's deep-fried dogs and big specialty dogs like Mike's Flying Hawaiian topped with pineapple habanero salsa and grilled onions. Enjoy your dogs in a 1950s-style soda fountain décor.

PATERSON

Libby's Lunch

98 McBride Ave., 973-278-8718

Near the Great Falls, Libby's has extra-long dogs, a flavorful chili sauce and birch beer on draft.

Editor's Note: We welcome all suggestions to keep our story content up-to-date. Thanks for all the recent recommendations.