

# SO SOUTHERN VOICE VO

DINING

## Breakfast destinations

Sleeping late is tempting, but these eateries are worth climbing out of bed

By HOPE S. PHILBRICK

**SATISFY YOUR HUNGER AND YOUR SOUL AT** Café 458's weekend brunch.

All proceeds including tips support Samaritan House of Atlanta, which helps homeless people gain self-sufficiency through employment readiness and life-stabilization programs.

The restaurant is only open to the public on weekends from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the week, it provides mid-day meals to the homeless.

The space is cheery and open; a counter fronts an open kitchen. The atmosphere is casual, and folks at neighboring tables may chat you up. The service can be spotty, but since the staff is all-volunteer, it's easy to cut them some slack.

On the ever-changing menu, find gourmet cuisine like pulled pork eggs benedict, Cajun crawfish bruschetta, upside-down apple pancakes, bread pudding French toast and imaginative specials.



**NUMEROUS SIGNS POSTED ON THE** walls say no —no substitutions, no separate checks — but the food at lesbian-owned Ria's Bluebird will have you saying yes, yes, yes.

Breakfast is served all day. The Bluebird Burrito wraps up skillet potatoes, white cheddar, scrambled eggs and black or pinto beans in a soft flour tortilla topped with tart salsa verde and sour cream.

Buttermilk pancakes are light, fluffy, as big as the plate and can be covered with toasted pecans and/or caramelized bananas. Vegetarians can feast on dishes like the southwest tofu scramble with spicy tofu cubes, tomato, black beans and red onions, cilantro pesto and broccoli.

Daily specials include creations like the sun-dried tomato omelet.

Overlooking the historic Oakland Cemetery, patio dining adds extra seating. That's a good thing since this small place draws a large, eclectic crowd.

**SATURDAY'S DATE SPILLING INTO SUNDAY** morning? Kudos to you. Celebrate and continue to impress by heading to brunch at Park 75 at the Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta.

This is not a buffet; it's a made-to-order feast. First up is a hot, fresh homemade doughnut. The remaining 11 courses are a parade of breakfast items, soups, salads, appetizers, sorbets, fish, meat, cheese and desserts.



Eating well can be your good deed for the day when you have breakfast at the all-volunteer Cafe 458.



The brunch menu is inspired by seasonal, local produce and showcases Executive Chef Robert Gerstenecker's creativity. Featured dishes range from soft-scrambled egg scented with black truffle to mini a Belgian waffle with peach foster sauce to roasted lamb tenderloin over ratatouille.

The \$42 per person cost includes valet parking, so you can just drive off into the sunset.



**FOUR SEASONS HOTEL**  
*Atlanta*

**BREAKFAST IS A BIG DEAL IN ATLANTA.** OTHER places popular with the gay brunch crowd include American Roadhouse in Virginia Highland, Pot-N-Pan on Piedmont Avenue, Radial Cafe on DeKalb Avenue, Highland Bakery in Inman Park, Grandma Luke's in Little Five Points, and Einstein's in Midtown

### CAFÉ 458

458 Edgewood Ave.  
404-523-1239  
www.samhouse.org/  
cafe458/cafe458.cfm

### RIA'S BLUEBIRD

421 Memorial Drive  
404.521.3737  
www.riasbluebird.com

### PARK 75 AT THE FOUR SEASONS

75 Fourteenth St.  
404-881-9898  
www.fourseasons.com/atlanta

### AMERICAN ROADHOUSE

842 N Highland Ave.  
404-872-2822

### POT-N-PAN

1865 Piedmont Ave.  
404-874-0340

### RADIAL CAFE

1530 Dekalb Ave., G  
404-659-6594  
www.radial.us

### HIGHLAND BAKERY

655 Highland Ave.  
404-586-0772

### EINSTEIN'S

1077 Juniper St.  
404-876-7925  
www.einsteinsatlanta.com

### GRANDMA LUKE'S BAKERY

1156 Euclid Ave.  
404-584-0444  
www.grandmalukes.com