

101 Best Restaurants in America 2012 Slideshow



#98 The Pit, Raleigh, N.C.

Barbecue is religion in the South, and without question, [The Pit](#) is one of its most holy institutions. Despite the fact that The Pit's legendary barbecue baron, Ed Mitchell, left this year to open his own restaurant, this destination-worthy joint continues to serve up the same North Carolina-style whole hog, pit-cooked 'cue that it always has. The word "authentic" should be dispensed with caution when it comes to food, but Mitchell's generations-old recipe (which is now being used by The Pit's new executive chef, Darrell Brown, a barbecue veteran in his own right) is the real deal and widely regarded as the standard for its genre.

Credit & Scott LeVoyer

