

Cotton Candy Bougie

Extra thick cut pork belly, smoked for 24 hours and paired with house made **cotton candy**. That was the start to one of the best restaurant experiences we had while living in Nashville.

Every steak comes with a carrot. Why? We're not sure. Was it a special carrot? Nope. Just a whole entire carrot. That was a decently fine meal that completely missed us.

After many similar experiences, we finally realized (or, accepted) that we're **bougie**. We like unique experiences with good food and local flavor. We like fancy without pretentiousness, trendy instead of country, well-crafted over expensive.

What follows is a guide for you to enjoy the **bougiest** Norman and OKC have to offer. You handle game day and let us take care of planning the rest of your (food) time in and around Norman.

Cotton candy bougie became a phrase that represents the experiences we enjoy. Hopefully, Norman can provide those same types of experiences for you.

If you have questions or experiences you'd like to share, please don't hesitate to email us at hi@cottoncandybougie.com. Feel free to share this guide with anyone you think might find it valuable.

Friday Night

Dinner at Black Walnut

Best restaurant in OKC if you want a high end experience. The drinks and appetizers are best of the best. The main course is excellent but doesn't quite hit that level.

What to Order

- ✦ Appetizers
 - ✦ Baked Chèvre \$13
 - ✦ Char-grilled Oyster \$6/per
- ✦ Ladies
 - ✦ Mexican Firing Squad \$10 (Alternative: Red Wine)
 - ✦ House Salad \$9
 - ✦ Cast Iron Strip \$45
- ✦ Gentlemen
 - ✦ Oaxacan on a Dream \$13 (Alternative: The House \$10)
 - ✦ Fried Green Tomato \$13
 - ✦ Ora King Salmon \$28

Things to Know

- ✦ Parking is normally pretty easy, with street parking and a lower level parking garage. Just follow the signs and head up the elevator.
- ✦ You'll want to make reservations.
- ✦ This is a nice restaurant and you can dress up as much as you want. However, no one will care if you choose comfort (within reason) over a suit.

After Dinner at Perets

A fantastic place for date night dessert. Stays open late, has plenty of seating, and the atmosphere is chill. One of our favorites.

What to Order

- ✦ Any Affogato \$11.95
 - ✦ (Make it a double if you want to share. You'll have to ask, as doubles aren't officially on the menu).

Things to Know

- ✦ The affogatos are the reason to show up, even though coffee and pastries have been good when ordered.
- ✦ There's plenty of room to sit and relax. You'll be surrounded by lots of college students quietly studying or doing puzzles.
- ✦ Street parking isn't easy to find on a busy night. There is a paid parking lot that Perets shares, along with multiple paid parking garages within walking distance.

Dinner Alternative at Jones Assembly

A trendy spot with excellent cocktails. The food is also good, even if the menu feels a bit too small. They regularly have live music, so check out their schedule to see who's playing. Reservations are recommended.

After Dinner Alternative at The Study

A nice wine bar with the perfect vibe. Great service, not at all pretentious, and very welcoming to novice wine drinkers. Order a flight and chat or play some of the provided games. Grab the tiny room if it's available (you'll know which one I'm talking about).

After Dinner Alternative at FlashBack RetroPub

Retro arcade games meet local beers. Cheap cover charge (\$5) and all games are free. 21 & up only, and they are very strict on IDs. Some of the best games are hidden back by the bathrooms so make sure to explore.

Sunday Morning

Breakfast/Brunch at Cafe Kacao

Cafe Kacao is the best restaurant in OKC. The service and food are consistently high quality, and it's a unique experience within OKC. This is always top of our list for out-of-towners to visit.

What to Order

- ✦ Ladies
 - ✦ Crème Brûlée Latte \$6.75
 - ✦ Carne Asada \$19.00
- ✦ Gentlemen
 - ✦ Abuelita Latte \$6
 - ✦ Crispy Motuleño \$16.50 (Alternative: French Toast \$16)

Things to Know

- ♦ Get on the waitlist ahead of time. Cafe Kacao is extremely popular, so reserve your spot early and be flexible on time. It's worth the effort.
- ♦ There isn't room to wait inside, so if the weather is extreme, take that into consideration.
- ♦ Parking is free and available, mostly in the street in the adjacent neighborhood. You might have to walk a block or two after parking. Be considerate to not block people's driveways.
- ♦ This is an amazing Guatemalan restaurant. You're doing yourself a disservice if you show up and order an omelette.

Breakfast/Brunch Alternative at Stitch Cafe

Another popular breakfast spot in OKC that stays busy. The tacos are delicious and light; the loaded tots, delicious and filling. Stitch is well known for their house made pop tarts, but they're too heavy on breading and light on filling to be more than a novelty.

Norman Guide

Friday Night

Dinner at The Winston

One of our favorite restaurants in Norman. Easily the best whiskey selection in Norman (at good prices too), and the Perfect Margarita is good enough that I'm often tempted to grab it over whiskey.

What to Order

- ✦ Appetizers
 - ✦ Spicy Chicken Nachos \$10 (Alternative: Buffalo Chicken Wontons \$9)
- ✦ Ladies
 - ✦ Perfect Margarita \$12
 - ✦ Filet & Wedge \$25
- ✦ Gentlemen
 - ✦ Whiskey; get one of their barrel picks (Alternative: Perfect Margarita \$12)
 - ✦ The Prime Minister \$15 (Alternative: Spicy Grilled Adobo Burger \$14)

Things to Know

- ✦ Free parking downtown is hard to find during busy times. Your best bet is to find whatever close parking you can. Sometimes it will be free, sometimes it will be paid.
- ✦ They don't take reservations. If there's a long wait, you can walk down Main Street and check out some local shops while you wait.
- ✦ It can get pretty loud inside, so sitting outside is preferred if weather permits.

After Dinner at Apple Tree

A local candy shop with a good selection of treats. We generally go for chocolate, but there's something to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth.

What to Order

It's a candy shop. Go wild. We really like the Aztec Bark (spicy chocolate). The candy apples are also popular.

Things to Know

- ✦ Free parking downtown is hard to find during busy times. Your best bet is to find whatever close parking you can. Sometimes it will be free, sometimes it will be paid.
- ✦ You can try the fudge or bark before deciding, so don't be shy.

Dinner Alternative at Victoria's

A staple of Norman, the chicken lasagna and lasagna rolls are the stars. Whatever cheese they use has great flavor, and the Baked Mushroom Caps are good enough to be a meal by themselves. Victoria's almost gets the edge because of its history in Norman, but we eat at The Winston more often.

After Dinner Alternative at Il Dolce Gelato

Quality gelato in a nice, cozy setting. There's not a lot of seating, but the location isn't too close to campus so it's normally not overcrowded.

Sunday Morning

Breakfast/Brunch at Neighborhood Jam

This was easily our favorite breakfast spot in Norman when it first opened, but it has dropped off a bit. Even though it still gets the top recommendation, the alternatives aren't far behind.

What to Order

- ♦ Ladies
 - ♦ Snickerdoodle Latte \$5 (Not on the menu anymore but still available)
 - ♦ The Heap with chicken sausage \$14
 - ♦ Sub a Cinnamon Roll Cake instead of toast
- ♦ Gentlemen
 - ♦ Snickerdoodle Latte \$5 (Not on the menu anymore but still available)
 - ♦ The Heap with bacon \$14
 - ♦ Sub a Pineapple Bourbon Cake instead of toast

Things to Know

- ♦ The coffee is average. We've never ventured far into the drink menu as alcohol with breakfast isn't really our speed.
- ♦ It gets busy, so make sure to join the waitlist.
- ♦ Free parking downtown is hard to find during busy times. Your best bet is to find whatever close parking you can. Sometimes it will be free, sometimes it will be paid.

Breakfast/Brunch Alternative at Syrup

Syrup is perfect if you want something sweet for breakfast (e.g. Cinnamon Roll Pancakes) but suffers a bit if you prefer savory. Service can be hit or miss but has gotten better lately. Make sure to [join the waitlist beforehand](#).

Breakfast/Brunch Alternative at Press & Plow

Originally a coffee shop that served food, this has become a restaurant that serves coffee. The Croque Madame is excellent, and the Press & Plow Breakfast is good, if basic. Their coffee is barely average, which is strange given their roots. Not too close to campus or downtown, so it's a good option if everywhere else is packed.