

Des Moines Register

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Top 5: Dark and cool

Moranville W.E.

Special to Des Moines Register

This feature profiles five food-related features from W.E. Moranville that fit a specific category. This week's category is . . .

In August, there's something unbeatable about stepping from a sizzling, glaring parking lot into one of these dark, cool, long time Des Moines venues. It's a simple, soothing pleasure -like a lick of ice cream on a hot, humid day.

Jesse's Embers: Any of the three area locations will do for a steak, but the original -with its lodge-in-the-woods motif -is the most reassuringly old Des Moines. 3301 Ingersoll Ave.; 255-6011.

Skip's: Settle into one of the cozy dark-wood paneled nooks and enjoy a please-all menu of easygoing sandwiches and expert entrees. 4000 Fleur Drive; 287-1820.

Nick's: With gleaming, harmonious woodwork, an intimately lit interior and a varied menu, this is the westside answer to Skip's. 9769 University Ave., Clive, 221-1338.

Christopher's: The been-here-forever Beavertdale choice for steaks and Italian specialties. Remember the lounge for an informal, any-night bite. 2816 Beaver Ave.; 274-3694

Buca di Beppo: True, it's more mid-century Jersey than old Des Moines, but its chock-a-block orgy of cool, kitsch-filled nooks provide an otherworldly refuge from the heat outside. 4801 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines; 224-6342.

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