

Nikki Does Detroit

Written by N. Rupersburg
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Ah, another week, another breakneck string of social obligations! Yes yes, my life is so hard...

On Monday I visited [Boodles](#) in Madison Heights for [Real Detroit Weekly's](#) Clean Plate Club (yeah, I'm writing that now). You'll have to wait for the review to publish this week, but I'll give you a little taste: "While in many ways it seems to be a relic of a former era, Boodles is so nostalgic as to be fresh all over again." They do full tableside service preparations of classic high-end dishes as [Steak Diane](#), [Caesar Salad](#), and [Bananas Foster](#). Their motto is that everyone is a VIP, and it's the absolute truth. Also, this was some of the best lamb chops I've ever had in my life! Like *butta*.

On Tuesday I met with my friends at [Paxahau](#) to discuss the spring edition of [Detroit Restaurant Week](#)...lots of fun ideas in the works there! Including a partnership with [Discover Detroit Dining](#), but more on that in a moment.

From there I stopped by one of my favorite independent coffee shops, [Bean & Leaf Café](#) in Royal Oak. They sell breads and pastries from [Avalon International Breads](#) and have a regularly rotating display of artwork from the photographers of [Exposure Detroit](#). They also make a French Vietnamese Coffee which is almost worth a trip to the 'burbs in itself.

As I sat there waiting for the media tasting being held at the [Bastone Complex](#) in Royal Oak hosted by [Publicity Works](#), I ran into photographer and friend [Marvin Shaouni](#), who shoots all the articles for [Model D](#) and [Metromode](#) (I write for both those, too. Are you noticing a theme here yet?). There's not really a story there except that it seemed really strange that two steadfast Detroiters ended up in the same coffee house in Royal Oak at the same time, and also I just like Marvin and wanted to give him a shout-out!

From there, it was on to the [Bastone](#) media tasting. Which I was late for even though I was 2 blocks away. I run on Nicole Time; I keep trying to tell people that. Why don't they listen?

I got to sample food and drink from all of the venues inside the complex, which include [Vinoteca](#) (a wine bar), [Bastone](#) (a restaurant and brewery), [Café Habana](#) (a Cuban restaurant), and [Commune](#) (an absinthe lounge). I also got to meet lots of other industry folk, which is a rare treat. Always a good time chewing the fat about chewing the fat! [Crain's Detroit](#) restaurant writer [Nathan Skid](#) and I decided to call this experience "Fun, Games, and Absinthe." Look for a post by that title later this week on my food blog, [Dining in Detroit!](#)

After THAT, I rushed off to [Wayne State University](#) where my presence was requested (read: demanded) by my GBF (gay best friend or gay boyfriend, your choice) to participate in his live radio show for his radio production class. You can catch me EVERY Tuesday night live at 7:00PM on [WAYN radio](#), talking about... whatever. I should get an honorary degree from Wayne State for all the assistance I've offered for his class projects, I swear...

Thursday I rounded up one of my girlfriends to go check out the [Birmingham Restaurant Week Menu](#) at [Hour Detroit's](#) Restaurant of the Year 2009, [Forest Grill](#). I've wanted to try [Forest Grill](#) for awhile now...but I have that whole "I hate ever having to drive out to the suburbs ever for anything ever" thing going on, so it's been a struggle. Well, finally I made the journey; there was a charcuterie platter with my name all over it! (Ahhhhhhh, meat.) While the special prix fixe menu is an inexpensive way to be introduced to a high-end restaurant such as this, I look forward to returning and experiencing more of their regular menu as this did not really seem to be the best representation of the restaurant. The desserts are sick, though—in that way where "sick" actually means "good," like how "bad" meant "good" back in the day.

On Saturday I meant to go see some friends of mine perform at the Shelter. Progressive hip-hopper [One Be Lo](#) performing with all-female hip-hop live band outfit YIN, along with [Miz Korona](#), [Cold Men Young](#), and [Detroit CYDI](#) (my friends!). I was super-hyped for this show; [One Be Lo](#) is supposed to be great live, [Miz Korona's](#) got a rep for being one of the top female MC's in the D, and [Detroit CYDI](#)



Random Detroit Fact

Woodward Avenue was the first road in the nation to be a paved mile of concrete, 1909.

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