





CUISINE TASTE TAKES FLIGHT

FIND FLAVOR



by John Schwarb

INSIDE AND OUT, the Col. H. Weir Cook Terminal Building is an unmistakable reflection of greater Indianapolis' physical and cultural landscape. Like the airport's approach to original commissioned artwork, IND's restaurants were selected to showcase local character, then were carefully and deliberately integrated into the terminal's design.

Twenty-five options for food and refreshments are sprinkled throughout the Indianapolis International Airport, offering a comprehensive range of dining options: fresh and healthy, grab and go, child-friendly, and sit down, relax, and be served. The types of restaurants and their locations carry out the Indianapolis Airport Authority's thoughtful, innovative vision for a memorable, satisfying, and unique airport dining experience, one that emphasizes quality, variety, local representation, and passenger convenience.

All of those criteria are met in Civic Plaza, a gathering space located just beyond the Ticket Hall and before the security checkpoints. Here, eight dining options are available for both ticketed passengers and non-ticketed individuals to enjoy. The restaurants conveniently ring the perimeter of the plaza, with a food court on one side and full-service restaurants on the other. Combined, they offer a stellar variety of cuisine and a mix of national and local restaurants.

Naked Tchopstix, Giorgio's Pizza, Qdoba, and McDonald's—quick and convenient fare with something for everyone—are grouped so it's easy to scan the food-court options. "This layout helps relieve a lot of anxiety at a glance," said Jeremiah Wise, director of new airport business development. "Passengers can clearly perceive the menu offerings and their pricing, which is cost-effective for many of our travelers." In addition, he explained, two of the four have hometown origins.

Giorgio's is one of Indy's favorite by-the-slice pizza parlors, and it also serves authentic pasta dishes, Italian sandwiches, calzones, and more. The airport location is Giorgio's first venture beyond its longtime home just off downtown's Monument Circle.

Naked Tchopstix is a family-owned Pan-Asian eatery, first established in the Indianapolis neighborhood of Broad Ripple, where the restaurant features freshly prepared sushi and sashimi flown in daily from Hawaii. At IND, Naked Tchopstix employs its own sushi chef, a rarity for any airport, especially in the Midwest. "You see wonderment on people's faces—*quick-serve sushi*? It's a wonderful concept," Wise said.

For those with time to spare for a more leisurely meal, the opposite side of Civic Plaza offers two more hometown favorites—the Indy 500 Grill and Café Patachou, both Indy institutions.

(Opposite page) Civic Plaza is a pre-security destination with six restaurants, a wine bar, and a coffee bar. Tables bathed in natural light create an airport dining experience that is uncommonly inviting.