

# { BERGEN BUZZ }

OUR GUIDE TO NEW IDEAS, TIPS, TRENDS AND THINGS WE LOVE IN OUR COUNTY.

## WHO WANTS ICE CREAM?

Few things in life are as dependable as ice cream. It's our trusty snack when we're sitting poolside and our spontaneous after-dinner indulgence. It's a first date that doesn't disappoint—and the friend who's been with us through the worst of breakups. Yes, some of us must opt for non-dairy alternatives or Italian ices for reasons of diet or lactose intolerance, but July is National Ice Cream Month for all of us. The average American reportedly consumes 23 gallons a year; if you're not up to that pace, someone else is getting some of yours! You'd best head for one of these sweet spots:

**Bischoff's Confectionery, Teaneck.** Since 1934, Bischoff's has been scooping up sweets in Teaneck, but this family-owned business dates to the late 1800s. Laura Heckler of Northvale calls Bischoff's her favorite ice-cream shop. "Though it's far from my home," she says, "I often make the trip down to Teaneck because I like it so much." There are scoops, ice cream sodas and a variety of ices. Try one of the decadent sundaes or, if you're feeling nostalgic, one of the classic egg creams.

▪ 468 Cedar Ln., Teaneck, 201.836.0333;  
[bischoffsicecream.com](http://bischoffsicecream.com)

**BrainFreeze, New Milford.** This kind of brain freeze you actually won't mind. Ice-cream sandwiches, malts, sundaes, oh my! While there, get an ice cream cake for your next special occasion. Must go dairy-free? The Italian ices await you.

▪ 370 River Rd., New Milford, 201.265.5055;  
[brainfreezeicecreamnj.com](http://brainfreezeicecreamnj.com)



**DID YOU KNOW?** July is the perfect time for ice cream, as the average high temperature in Bergen County for the month is 84.1 degrees Fahrenheit. While it's a warm one, Bergen's stat is one degree cooler than the state average high for July.





## ICE IS NICE

These Bergen County locations may serve other sweets, but all eyes are on their Italian ices:

**Clyde's, Garfield.** Italian ice is the specialty here. Served in classic paper cups and packed with heaping scoops, the nice ice puts smiles on faces of all ages. And fear not, ice cream lovers! You'll find the creamy treat as well. In July and August, stop by on Mondays for \$2 soft-serve.

■ 48 Gaston Ave., Garfield, 973.546.2760

**Lyndhurst Pastry Shop, Lyndhurst.** Italian ice in a pastry shop? We wouldn't have it any other way. With regular Italian ices, sugar-free options and cream Italian ices made with milk powder, you'll be able to please the entire family here. Christina Alberti of Lyndhurst gives us the inside scoop on one of the shop's best flavors. (Trust her; she works there!) It's cannoli cream. She likes that it has chocolate chips and "tastes just like real cannoli cream."

■ 256 Ridge Rd., Lyndhurst, 201.939.3951; lyndhurstpastryshop.com

**Ralph's Famous Italian Ice, Hasbrouck Heights.** This East Coast chain is a stop you need to make when the sugar cravings hit. Try Ralph's Italian ices and sherbets. Want something different? Opt for the popular twist: Italian ice layered with creamy soft-serve ice cream.

■ 239 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights; 201.393.4891; ralphsices.com

**Rita's Italian Ice, multiple locations.** Rita's is a crowd pleaser, with stores across Bergen County. Get a classic Italian ice or a frozen custard to cool off after a long summer day. Can't decide? The two combine in Rita's famous gelati.

■ 1020 Maple Ave., Glen Rock, 201.447.4827; 184 Essex St., D-2, Lodi, 201.843.0882; 3 Miller Rd., Mahwah, 201.529.4237; 50 River Rd., North Arlington, 201.998.7482; 191-2 Hackensack St., Wood-Ridge, 201.804.9333; ritasice.com

**Uncle Louie G's Italian Ice and Ice Cream, multiple locations.** This chain offers a sweet escape here in Bergen that you'd otherwise have to find down the Shore. With pastel colors and candy-striped accents, even the storefronts make you feel like a kid on the boardwalk. Carol Sahagian of Oradell says: "Uncle Louie G's has the best Italian ice ever! It tastes like ice cream (very creamy), with way fewer calories." She favors chocolate mousse and chocolate peanut butter cup.

■ 96 E. Main St., Ramsey, 201.962.2272; 111 W. Pleasant Ave., 201.909.5151; 135 Park Ave., Park Ridge, 201.690.6719; uncloulouiegee.com

**Conrad's Confectionery, Westwood.** Here's the scoop: This is Westwood's best-kept secret, so good we almost didn't want to tell you about it. But we'll wait on the longest of lines if it means getting our hands on a cup of the ice cream Conrad's has been selling since 1928. If you're looking for a non-dairy alternative, opt for a homemade ice pop in a flavor such as cotton candy, guava or pineapple. Matt Fagnan of Westwood grew up enjoying Conrad's ice cream; today he visits with his wife and new baby. Fagnan didn't stay in Westwood solely for Conrad's, he says, "but it definitely helped."

■ 107 Westwood Ave., Westwood, 201.664.2895; conrads1928.com

**Cranberry Junction Ice Cream and Hot Dogs, Hackensack.** This sweet little storefront has been serving up classic flavors since 2015. As the name suggests, the cranberry-colored ice cream shop is nestled right next to the train tracks. Sit at one of the establishment's many picnic tables and entertain the kids with the real-life version of their favorite toy.

■ 19 Temple Ave., Hackensack, 201.546.8966; cranberryjunctionicecream.com

**Daniela's Ice Cream, Closter.** I scream, you scream, we all scream for Daniela's. This Closter corner store sells the classics with a sprinkling of flair. Earl Grey, ginger, key lime—the mouth waters at the thought of these exciting flavors. Here, fresh ingredients and small-scale production combine to ensure satisfaction with every bite.

■ 234 Closter Dock Rd., Closter, 201.428.9600; danielasicecream.com

**Ernie's Ice Cream, Mahwah.** This window-service ice cream shop has been bringing crowds to Mahwah every summer since 2010. Try its Mississippi mud pie or lemon-bar-flavored hard ice cream. There's also a large

selection of soft-serve options (34 flavors to be exact), way beyond the simple chocolate and vanilla offered at most other shops. Bring your dairy-free friends to enjoy Ernie's Italian ices as well as ice cream made with almond milk or oat milk.

■ 78 Franklin Tpk., Mahwah, 201.252.8373; erniesicecream.wixsite.com

**FM Cafe, Wood-Ridge.** Come to this lovely storefront for a taste of Italy. You'll find gelato and tartufo sundaes, bubble waffles and more. The menu may be small, but the gelato packs a real flavor punch.

■ 255 Valley Blvd., Wood-Ridge, 201.728.4889; fmcafe.net

**Francy's Artisanal Ice Cream, Bergenfield.** As of May 2021, Francy's is Bergen County's new ice creamery. Here you'll find flavors such as gianduja crunch and cannoli. Though new, Francy's is already making a name for itself.

■ 461 S. Washington Ave., Bergenfield, 201.942.6282

**Ice Cream on Grand, Englewood.** This ice cream sure is grand. With classic and novel flavors (passion fruit and yuzu), you can play it safe here or try something new. This spot is kosher too.

■ 523 Grand Ave., Englewood, 201.569.5346; icecreamongrand.com

**Van Dyk's, Ridgewood.** With a plethora of flavors of rich, creamy ice cream, it's no surprise there's always a crowd out front here. It's the favorite ice cream spot of many Bergenites—such as Alyssa Pagliei of Midland Park, who says, "When the weather's nice, I often walk there with my friends. It's the best local spot around." (Needn't bring credit cards; this classic joint is cash only.)

■ 145 Ackerman Ave., Ridgewood, 201.444.1429; vandyksicecream.com

## GOT OAT?

These shops serve creamy alternative non-dairy options for your ice cream fix:

**Ice Cream by Mike, Ridgewood.** If you love ice cream but must avoid dairy products, this is the place for you. Besides regular ice cream, it offers vegan options in popular flavors such as vanilla and chocolate, as well as cookies and coconut. Crave something salty? You'll even find hand-cut fries here.

■ 305 E. Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood, 201.343.4514; icecreambymike.com

**Sprinklez, Hillsdale.** With rainbow cones and, of course, sprinkles, this Hillsdale shop is probably the most colorful one on the list. It offers regular ice creams and 10 flavors of vegan ice creams made with coconut milk—feel free to bring the whole family. If you're hyper-hungry, try the Big Mama, a 32-ounce shake made with flavors of your choosing.

■ 130 Broadway, Hillsdale, 201.497.5515; sprinklezhillsdale.com

**Van Leeuwen Ice Cream, East Rutherford.** While this cute chain offers both dairy and non-dairy ice cream options, its vegan ice creams are all the rage. They're so creamy and flavorful, even non vegans forgo dairy for a scoop of vegan vanilla almond butter cup. Try all the flavors in a delectable waffle cone!

■ 1 American Dream Way, East Rutherford, 551.248.4957; vanleeuwenicecream.com