



## The Ultimate Dallas Picnic Basket: Eight Locally Owned Markets That Sell Picnic-Ready Fare

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On a recent Friday evening in Oak Cliff, people gathered on the Turner House lawn for a screening of *Casablanca*. As the sun tucked itself behind the trees, blankets were spread, wine bottles popped, picnic baskets inventoried. Charcuterie boards rose up like tiny meat mountains and when the breeze shifted, you could almost catch a faint whiff of French brie. One man, a role model for us all, unpacked an impressive antique coffee service for his companion, proving that humans will go to incredible lengths to dine al fresco — or maybe to impress a date. The movie may have been the main attraction that night, but picnic fare became the real star of the show.

The picnic has once again become a beloved American event, whether in the form of snacks in a public park or an elaborate, expensive farm-to-table dinner under the stars. The history of the picnic depicts it as a luxury originally afforded to only the most affluent of society's elite. "Medieval hunting feasts, Renaissance-era country banquets and Victorian garden parties lay the foundation for today's leisurely repast," writes Lynne Olver, a food history librarian who runs [foodtimeline.org](http://foodtimeline.org). "Picnics, as we Americans know them today, date to the middle of the 19th century. Although the 'grand picnic' is generally considered a European concept, culinary evidence confirms people from other parts of the world engage in similar practices."

Dining together outside appears to be a universal indulgence. And lucky for us, we live in North Texas, where the weather is picnic-friendly for much of the year — but particularly right now, when the world is verdant and breezy as the seasons turn.

With the goal to create a sense of place in our picnic fare, we set out to build the ultimate Dallas picnic basket — a spread featuring goods from locally owned businesses that specialize in food that's meant to be shared. These markets, restaurants and bakeries sell delicious bites that call for a little pomp and circumstance, for savoring in a moment shared with loved ones. When it comes to food, there can be no higher calling than that.



1. CiboDivino Marketplace  
1868 Sylvan Ave.

Sylvan Thirty's CiboDivino is where Napa meets Sicily. The one-year-old market is its own breezy food oasis where you can snag Italian pastries, gourmet condiments, pre-made veggie side dishes and Neapolitan-style pizza. There's even an entire charcuterie section perfect for stocking your picnic basket. To sweeten the deal, CiboDivino has a fantastic selection of wines organized by region and varietal — and you can easily find an above average bottle of Rose or Sauv Blanc for \$12-\$20.

Perfect for a picnic: An order of caponata (\$14.99/lb.), a Sicilian eggplant dish made with celery, herbs and capers.