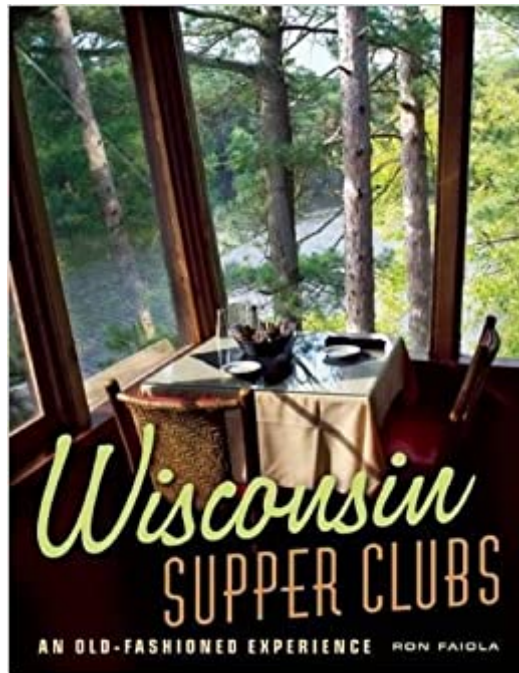




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Wisconsin Supper Clubs: An Old-Fashioned Experience



Synopsis

Wisconsin Supper Clubs is a resource for and about supper clubs throughout Wisconsin that includes beautiful photographs of the unique supper club interiors, proprietors, and customers, as well as fascinating archival materials. Also recorded in this book are the regional specialties served at these clubs, ranging from popovers and fried pickles in the northern part of the state to Shrimp de Jonghe in the south. One Northwoods supper club even features fry bread, a traditional Native American dish uncommon to most any restaurant. The "supper club experience" is a tradition embodied by many long-standing restaurants scattered throughout the small towns of Wisconsin. It is based around a bygone idea that going out to dinner is an experience that lasts an entire evening. The clubs emphasizing food made from scratch, slow-paced dining, and family-run businesses. Combine this with stately dark-panel decor, complimentary relish trays, and the best brandy Old Fashioned sweet you'll ever have, and you have barely scratched the surface of the Wisconsin supper club's appeal. Author Ron Faiola is the critically acclaimed director and producer of the documentary by the same name. Supper clubs are hugely popular with Wisconsin locals and regularly frequented by all Midwestern foodies "in the know." With Wisconsin Supper Clubs as a guide, these establishments are primed to be choice summer road trip destinations for anyone looking for low-cost vacations this summer. After the successful debut of Faiola's documentary, this book is sure to be a hit throughout the region and beyond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Ron Faiola, his documentary, and his book WISCONSIN SUPPER CLUBS: AN

OLD-FASHIONED TRADITION:"A glorious look at a Wisconsin tradition, Wisconsin Supper Clubs: An Old-Fashioned Experience [is] a glossy 225-page book that just might make your mouth water." —William Hagemen, Chicago Tribune"[A] compelling, delightful and—not to make too much of it—important documentary.... Ron Faiola [is] a genius filmmaker." —Rick Kogan"Ron Faiola is passionate about food. He is the author of Wisconsin Supper Clubs: An Old-Fashioned Experience, a coffee table book chronicling the unique Wisconsin tradition of the supper club.... Faiola put 5,000 miles on his car traveling to every corner of the state to capture the timeless charm of the supper club." —BizTimes Milwaukee“Prime rib, Friday night fish fries, and relish trays are the stuff of legend in Wisconsin.... But the supper club is a relic, so [author Ron Faiola] is hoping to bring them back into fashion...[Wisconsin Supper Clubs] documents 50 of the states most enduring time capsules.â • —Steve Dolinsky, ABC 7 News, Chicago“A beautiful book...you read this book and not only does your mouth start watering, but you start thinking kind of expansively [about] weekend getaway opportunities.... I heartily endorse it.â • —Bill Moller, WGN Radio"Faiola went to [great lengths to] get the right shots for his coffee-table book, Wisconsin Supper Clubs: An Old-Fashioned Experience. He spent 10 weeks on the road last year, traversing the state to visit dozens upon dozens of the state's emblematic restaurants." —Carol Deptolla, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel"Wisconsin Supper Clubs: An Old Fashioned Experience is a mouthwatering tour of rarefied restaurants from another era that has me thinking of excursions northward." —Peter Exley, Chicago Reader"Ron Faiola has become Wisconsin's legacy filmmaker." —David Lührssen, Express Milwaukee"Wisconsin-native Ron Faiola recently released a book—Wisconsin Supper Clubs: An Old-Fashioned Experience—which showcases some of the finest supper clubs in the state and shows why supper clubs are such a big part of Wisconsin's food culture." —State Senator Tom Tiffany, Wisconsin's 12th Senate District"Faiola's book goes behind the scenes at 50 Dairy State restaurants, offering photos, stories, and his take on each of the clubs." —Wisconsin State Journal"In his new book Wisconsin Supper Clubs: An Old-Fashioned Experience, writer/filmmaker Ron Faiola...traveled across Wisconsin and profiled 50 Supper Clubs...hallmarks include brandy Old Fashioneds, Friday night fish fry, prime rib, relish trays, lake views, taxidermy, glowing vintage beer lights, Packers paraphernalia, and more." —Paula Forbes, Eater.com, National page

Ron Faiola is a photographer, author and filmmaker who has produced and directed numerous critically acclaimed documentaries.Â Wisconsin Supper Clubs - An Old Fashioned Experience, his PBS movie, released in 2011, and the Agate/Midway published book (of the same title) released in

2013, have brought new attention to Wisconsin supper clubs as people from around the country experience "the restaurants of yesteryear" by using both as guides to travel around the state to visit many of the featured supper clubs.Â Faiola is currently working on a second book of Wisconsin Supper Clubs, due out in the spring of 2016.

Here's the second recently published book on Wisconsin, or upper Midwest, supper clubs. This is more of a picture book, than the one by Dave Hoekstra. I recommend that you buy both, if you have an interest in this fascinating subject, because they balance each other out. While Hoekstra's The Supper Club Book has many good photos and a lengthy though poorly written text, Ron Faiola's Wisconsin Supper Clubs has a limited text and a lot of great photos. Faiola's book also covers more supper clubs and organizes them geographically through Wisconsin. Because I have not been to many different supper clubs, just a few many times, I have not experienced the range of types, menus and locations that Faiola chronicles. But, that could be true of most people who go to supper clubs, visiting only one or two regularly all their lives. The thing that surprised me the most in this book is the record of the variety of foods on menus, and the complexities of the presentations overall. I've always associated supper clubs with wholesome but not adventurous dining, solid but unimaginative food. Well, you're not going to get postmodern cooking anywhere at these restaurants, but the range of selection and preparations is bigger than I thought. Since I'm not from Wisconsin, I've still never had a brandy old-fashioned, but you get a recipe and photos of 16 versions of the drink on pages 220-221. One warning about supper clubs, from my experience, if you order wine, zinfandel means pink wine, not the dark red fruity California wine you might expect

This is a very nice cocktail table book, and it profiles a lot of Wisconsin supper clubs. The author is apparently quite well known as an expert on these clubs and has done a filmed documentary, in addition to this book. That said, I strongly suggest that you don't rely too heavily on the book's reviews. I bought it just before taking a trip up north through the state, and I tried a number of the book's rated clubs. One (The Butterfly Club in Beloit) was absolutely fantastic, but several of the other highly rated clubs in the book were average at best -- and one was pretty much a dive. So buy the book, use it as a starting point for your visits, but then make sure you double-check your choices on TripAdvisor or some other travel database. When I mentioned my bad experience to one of the innkeepers at a local B&B, he told me, "the so-and-so club used to be great, but there are new owners now, and it's not what it was."

This book has truly caught the aura and the feelings of the Wisconsin Supper Club. After just looking at a few of the pictures, my wife said "Let's get in the car and go" And we live in Illinois. The pictures are great of both the Supper Clubs and the food. The drink recipes catch the spirit of the genre. A really fun book to have on hand.

This book makes me wish I could travel to more of these, but it's great armchair travel anyway!

This is a great start for working our way around the state's supper clubs. And, I agree with his assessment of what constitutes one. Except I have to add that they always know how to make a great old fashion!

Supper Clubs are probably dying out as we have turned to a fast food nation. My favorite here is Bernard's in Stevens Point as my wife had an apartment across the street when we were in college at UW Stevens Point. Frequently Bernard would come out of the kitchen to make his famous Cherries Jubilee for us. Romantic dinners there lead to our marriage after college. This book is organized by regions within the state that makes it fun and easy to read. Growing up in Wisconsin was all about the Friday night fish fry and going out to a supper club was a big deal in our family. This book does a great job capturing that!

This book has amazing photos. It is a great travelogue... tour Wisconsin...by great places to eat. I purchased this for my husband's birthday. We are planning weekends to visit each Supper Club. What a lovely way to see Wisconsin. I loved this book.

This is a really good guide to Wisconsin Supper Clubs. The book has been divided geographically into Wisconsin regions, which is helpful in locating a particular club. The pictures are inviting along with a short history of each club and some of their favorite food choices. Supper clubs, if not unique to Wisconsin are important in the state's dining and feature some of the best and favorite dining experiences in the state. This is more than a "coffee table" book, it's a good reference to eating in Wisconsin.

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