



**Epiqueerean**  
BY JENNY NGUYEN

## When the Moon Hits Your Eye

**T**hat's amore! Americans have been enamored by pizza ever since Gennaro Lombardi first introduced the thin saucer to New York City and the United States back in 1905. Since then pizzaiolos, or pizza craftsmen, have struggled to keep the authenticity of true pizzamaking form—among chain restaurants and manufactured crusts—alive. Here are three Portland purveyors of pie that are dedicated to the perfect slice.

### Apizza Scholls • 4741 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.

Arguably some of the West Coast's best pizza, Apizza has a deservedly huge following—just ask the folks waiting inside and outside the small restaurant for hours. Seated you'll find the pies simple with no more than three toppings as to not overwhelm the individual flavors or the exquisite crust. The crust in and of itself makes the meal; blistered and cracker-like, it is buttery, crisp and chewy all at once. A perfect blend of grana Padano, pecorino romano and mozzarella makes the cheesiness of these pies stand out. House-cured bacon, homemade sausage and other fine ingredients are perfectly represented on each round. Salads, antipasto plates and fine microbrews also adorn the small menu, but it's the minimalist thin-crust pizzas, made fresh daily, that make the wait worthwhile. P.S.: When they run out of dough, they run out of dough.

### Pizza a Go-Go • 3240 N. Williams Ave.

This quaint corner kitchen on the newly hatched Williams strip is bringin' sexy pies back. With a go-go girl logo and a groovy '70s dining area, Go-Go is flirty, fun and delish. Grab a slice of "Swingin' Swine" and be treated to pulled pork like you've never had it before. "Sock It to Me" is heavenly, layered with herbed ricotta, pepperoncinis and Italian sausage. Classic renditions of traditional pies are given new life with local, organic ingredients and trendy names. But alas, it's the crust that separates Go-Go from so-so. The dough is daringly thin, floppy and chewy, making pizza eating more of a wrestling match than a dainty feat. This is not at all bad but in fact delightful. One memory I have from NYC is devouring two slices of pepperoni at a joint underneath the Brooklyn Bridge at 3 a.m. It had to be folded in half to be held at all, olive oil and cheese dripping from my chin...thanks to Go-Go, I got to relive that moment.

### Blind Onion • 3345 N.E. Broadway

With four locations in the Portland metro area, the Blind Onion has achieved a rare feat: Consistently perfect crusts, fresh ingredients and an "eye" for detail make the atmosphere and food terrific every time. Although the toppings can teeter at six per pie, the crust holds well and stays crisp throughout. Doughy edges do get thick and undercooked at times, but the ratio of sauce, topping and cheese is perfectly balanced. Go for a good old-fashioned slice with a beer and friends, and you'll spend a lot less than at other inferior gourmet pizzerias about town. **10**

JENNY NGUYEN loves hot, cheesy pie. Got a slice you'd like to share? Spread the love at epiqueerean@comcast.net.

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