

# Dash and dine: 'Food Truck Nation' delivers more bites on wheels

By Michelle Rose  
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From shawarma quesadillas to blueberry pie PB&J (more on that later), food trucks are a sure bet if you're looking for unique eats. And Brad Miller knows where you can find them.

Season 2 of "Food Truck Nation" premiered last week on the Cooking Channel. That means we can expect new weekly food truck discoveries all summer long.

In the episode airing Tuesday, July 23, Miller stops by El Shuko in Las Vegas, where an American classic (a double hot dog) is topped up with Guatemalan flavors, and a "quick" jump over the Rocky Mountains takes Miller to Denver and to Crescent City Connection, which is dishing out Cajun- and Creole-inspired foods. Miller won't earn any frequent flyer points with his final stop: he's staying put in Denver to sample blueberry

pie PB&J from Hey PB&J. And, yes, the peanut butter and jam sandwich is actually filled with a piece of pie. Like, pie crust and everything.

For diners, these are the kinds of menu items that have elevated street foods and made food trucks the symbols of cutting-edge culinary innovation.

On the other side of the concession window, mobile kitchens are ideal for chefs who enjoy thinking outside the box — not just in terms of pushing the boundaries of food but also as a viable option for the entrepreneurial minded. They allow chefs to offer diverse, even niche menu items without the prohibitive costs of leasing a permanent location. And that helps to keep prices low for diners (depending on the ingredients, of course).

But not everyone's a fan. Chicago was in the news recently when the Illinois Supreme Court upheld the city's food truck regulations. Owners had chal-

lenged a rule prohibiting trucks from operating within 200 feet of any establishment that served food, even a convenience store. Another issue was the mandatory GPS tracking that allowed the city to know a truck's whereabouts at all times.

The city argued these measures were necessary to protect property tax-paying businesses. In the end, Chicago's brick-and-mortar eateries won.

But there are other cities where food trucks and restaurants have found a way to exist side by side. Food truck-friendly cities such as Portland, Denver, Orlando, Philadelphia and Indianapolis are now benefitting from the entrepreneurial exodus occurring in other cities.

While America's food truck experiment hasn't always been trouble- or tension-free, one thing is certain: wherever chefs are allowed to do their thing, the true winners are usually the diners.



Brad Miller in "Food Truck Nation"

## cooking this week

### WEDNESDAY

4:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** An epic five week challenge with celebrity chefs. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** The celebrity chefs must make a fine dining dinner. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** Chefs must switch gears and go from savory to sweet. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** The chefs must make a gourmet entree with snack foods. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** The final four culinary superstars face epic games. (CC)

### THURSDAY

4:30 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Line Pelletier & Chris Scott try to school each other. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Michael Che teams up with Geoffrey Zakarian. (CC)

5:30 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Ted Allen and Sunny Anderson switch things up. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Elvis and Katie celebrate watching Bobby sweat. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Either Scott Conant or Hannah Hart will face Bobby. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Amateurs are back a second time to brave the kitchen. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Four jilted competitors return for redemption. (CC)

### FRIDAY

4:30 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy travels to find a homemade meatloaf sandwich. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** A pizza joint a unique crepe-filled lasagne. (CC)

5:30 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** A food truck 'shuckin' and frying oysters in Vancouver. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy's looking for some scratch-made comfort food. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Some standout veggie and meat dishes. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy visits Miami, Florida. (CC)

7:30 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy pickles, smokes and cures. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy Fieri dives into cultural cuisine with a twist! (CC)

### SATURDAY

Noon

**FOOD Trisha's Southern Kitchen** (N) Trisha hosts an 80s-themed party for her friends. (CC)

12:30 p.m.

**FOOD Girl Meets Farm** Harissa-braised chickpeas; yogurt chicken skewers. (CC)

1:00 p.m.

**OPB Steven Raichlen's Project Fire** (CC)

**FOOD Cupcake Championship** Cupcake designers create gender reveal designs.

1:30 p.m.

**KTNW tasteMAKERS** Peconic Escargots' fresh snails and snail caviar. (CC)

**OPB America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated** Features grilled marinated skirt steak. (CC)

2:00 p.m.

**OPB Annabel Langbein: The Free Range Cook** Annabel Langbein nets flounder on a Nelson beach. (CC)

**FOOD Worst Bakers in America** Eight of the worst bakers in America enter boot camp. (CC)

2:30 p.m.

**OPB Martha Bakes** Martha creates three enticing desserts. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

**KTNW America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated** Jack then challenges Bridget to a mozzarella tasting. (CC)

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** The cream of the crop take on Bobby. (CC)

3:30 p.m.

**KTNW Food Over 50** No salt chicken chili verde and orange sesame chicken. (CC)

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** It's a West Coast versus East Coast battle. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Alton Brown enlists past season winners. (CC)

4:30 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Jackie Rothong takes on Matteo Boffo.

5:00 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Ted Allen and Sunny Anderson switch things up. (CC)

5:30 p.m.

**FOOD Beat Bobby Flay** Experts in Italian fare compete to take on Bobby. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

**OPB The Great British Baking Show** Time and temperature work against the bakers. (CC)

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy's unhinging his jaw for some mega mouthfuls! (CC)

6:30 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy Fieri travels to a spot loading up the ramen. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

**KTNW The Great British Baking Show** The bakers must create edible 3D bread sculptures. (CC)

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** Guy Fieri plays a game of chicken all over the country. (CC)

7:30 p.m.

**FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** (CC)

### SUNDAY

Noon

**FOOD The Kitchen** The Kitchen serves up a plate-list of summer's hits. (CC)

1:00 p.m.

**FOOD Carnivorous** (N) Courtney has a high-brow, \$1,000 sandwich.

1:30 p.m.

**FOOD Carnivorous** (N) Courtney gets her pork chop on in Nashville.

2:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Robert Irvine will command a seat on the judging panel. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Robert Irvine watches the champs every move. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Chef Robert Irvine serves as a judge. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Three champions return to battle for \$15,000. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

**FOOD The Great Food Truck Race** The teams are challenged to a shake showdown. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

**KVEW Chance of Wine** (CC)

7:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** Four returning international GGG chefs battle it out. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** Chefs who are giving back to their own communities. (CC)

### MONDAY

4:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** Four more DDD chefs try to win a spot in the finale. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** Four more DDD chefs make classic diner meals. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** Four more DDD chefs compete to earn up to \$20,000! (CC)

7:00 p.m.

**FOOD Guy's Grocery Games** The final four go on an epic cross-country trip. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

**FOOD Worst Bakers in America** Eight of the worst bakers in America enter boot camp. (CC)

### TUESDAY

4:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Chef Robert Irvine serves as a judge. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Three champions return to battle for \$15,000. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Four amazing teenaged chefs invade the Chopped Kitchen. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Four talented teens compete. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

**FOOD Chopped** Kids who love to cook take over the Chopped Kitchen. (CC)

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