

# Comfortable Cooking

Local restaurants serve up delicious dishes just like mom used to make

BY LORI ROMANO

PHOTOS BY JAMIE CAREY MULHERN

**A**s the seasons change and the days get cooler, people begin to crave comfort foods that taste like home. There is nothing like a hearty meal made from grandma's recipe, or a delicious dish just like mom used to make, to lift your spirits.

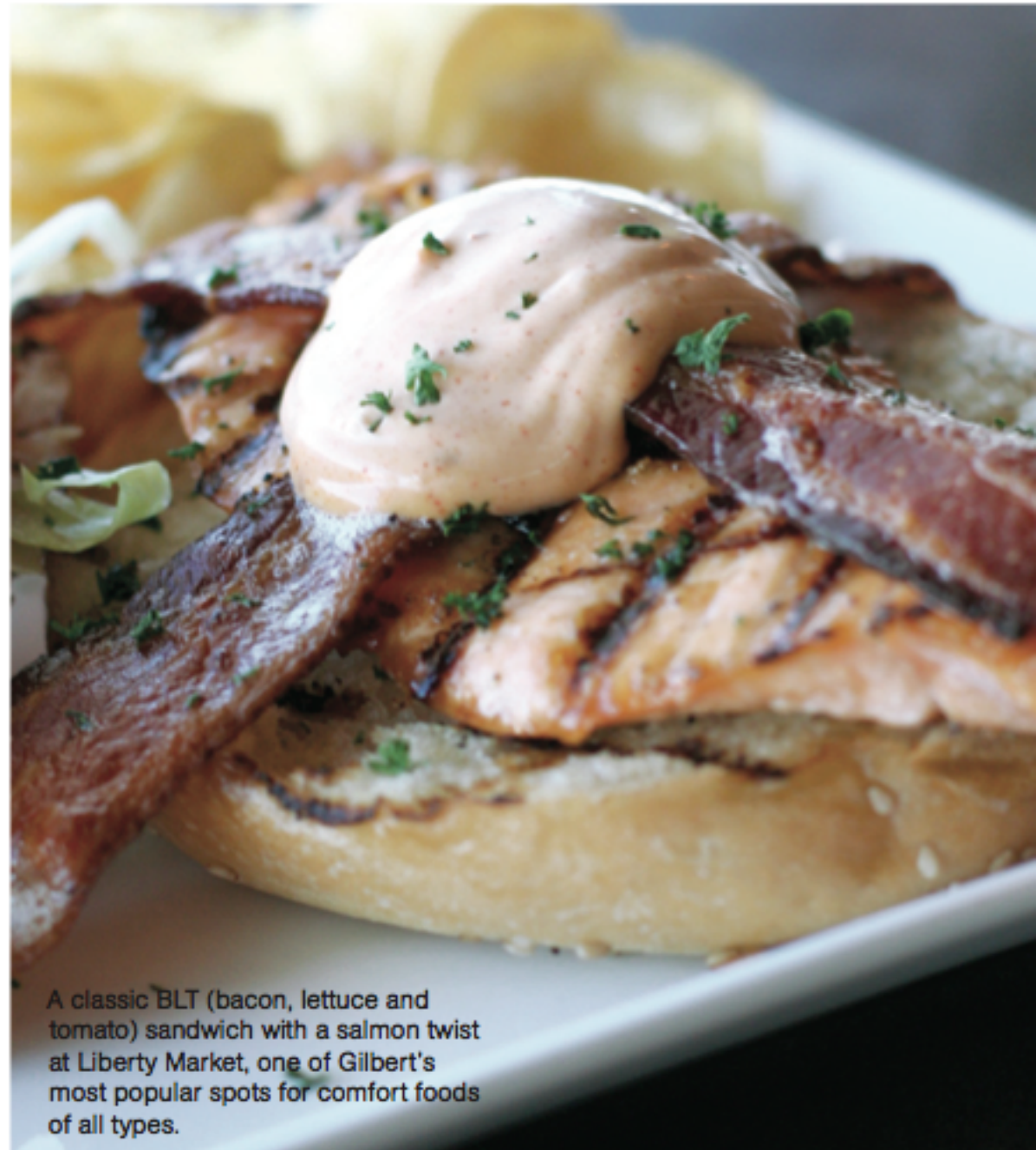
If you are looking for a variety of authentic comfort foods that are both delicious and affordable, these East Valley restaurants are sure to satisfy.

**Flancer's Café**  
610 N. Gilbert Road  
480.926.9077  
flancers.com

Known for being "like your favorite place growing up," Flancer's Café has a menu full of food that will bring back some of your favorite mealtime memories. The café boasts something for every taste and appetite. Begin with an order of roasted parmesan bread, baked fresh and topped with mozzarella cheese. Then, dig into a heaping bowl of spaghetti and marinara or meat sauce. But whatever you do, save room for the homemade dessert—peach cobbler or a fresh half-baked cookie, both served à la mode.

**Charleston's Restaurant**  
1040 N. 54th St., Chandler  
480.961.9434  
charlestons.ehsrg.com

The owners of Charleston's Restaurant put a lot of thought into matching the cozy, gas lit ambience with a classic American menu full of your favorite comfort foods. Enjoy the chicken fried steak, which has been seasoned, hand-breaded and paired with black pepper chipotle gravy. Or, try the meat loaf made with spicy ground beef, pork sausage and mixed cheeses, topped with a tomato-brown sauce and served with mashed potatoes and sweet glazed carrots. Accompany your meal with a bowl of Charleston's creamy chicken noodle soup or one of their signature side dishes like the smokehouse baked beans, and you are guaranteed to leave satisfied.



A classic BLT (bacon, lettuce and tomato) sandwich with a salmon twist at Liberty Market, one of Gilbert's most popular spots for comfort foods of all types.



If breakfast is your version of comfort food, try a Breakfast Scramble from Liberty Market, complete with home-made eggs, potatoes, and biscuits.





For those with a sweet tooth, there's nothing more comforting than a classic cinnamon roll from Liberty Market.

A new twist on an old favorite, grilled bread pudding slices from Liberty Market are a comforting, sweet treat.



**Liberty Market**  
**230 N. Gilbert Road**  
**480.892.1900**  
**libertymarket.com**

"It's not just comfort foods, but a comfortable place," says Kiersten Traina, co-owner of Liberty Market. "We offer a wide variety of foods, which allows us to provide something for everyone. Hopefully, we create something that brings back good memories for our guests and helps them create memories for the future."

At the popular Liberty Market, you can drop in for breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert or a little pick-me-up at the espresso bar. Using recipes handed down from the owners' families, the menu is full of authentic comfort foods for just about everyone. For breakfast, try the biscuits and gravy or a stack of buttermilk pancakes. Stop by for lunch or dinner and choose from a menu full of your favorite salads, steaks, sandwiches, pastas and delicious homemade side dishes like whipped sweet potatoes or creamy potato salad. Desserts are made from scratch and baked in-house. Red velvet cake with cream cheese frosting is a Liberty Market favorite.

**Logan's Roadhouse**  
**2649 S. Market St.**  
**480.722.0412**  
**logansroadhouse.com**

Traditional American roadhouses are known for their delicious food, well-stocked bars and rockin' music. With restaurants currently in 23 states, Logan's Roadhouse has revived and reinvented the classic roadhouse for the 21st century. The menu is a mile long, and has something for everyone. While Logan's is known best for its flame-grilled steaks, you can also enjoy timeless favorites like baby back ribs, which are rubbed with Logan's special seasonings, slow roasted, then flame grilled before being slathered in BBQ sauce and served piping hot to your table. If that's not enough to satisfy your appetite, Logan's has an extensive list of sides to accompany your meal, including a sweet potato loaded with marshmallows and caramel, mashed potatoes topped with bacon and shredded cheese, or home-style potato chips.

**Mimi's Café**  
**2800 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler**  
**480.899.5612**  
**mimiscafe.com**

With locations in 24 states, Mimi's Café combines an extensive and ever-evolving home cooked menu with the ambience of a quaint café. Check out the Café Classics section of the menu, and you will find no shortage of comfort food. Whether you choose the slow-roasted turkey breast served with homemade mashed potatoes, gravy, cornbread dressing, fresh vegetables and orange cranberry relish or the chicken pot pie with the delightfully flaky crust, you will not be disappointed. For dessert, indulge in the fresh cinnamon apple crisp. With the buttery crumble topping and scoop of vanilla ice cream, it's just like grandma used to make. ■