

Freeing the falsely accused * Why redneck humor hurts
Is Atlanta ready for a disaster?

Atlanta

Great Stuff Cheap

- * 20 terrific meals for \$20
- * The \$500 room redo
- * Fab fashion under \$100

Clark Howard

Atlanta's Favorite Cheapskate
His secret? "Shop in stores
with concrete floors."



¢HEAP

**70 GREAT WAYS TO SAVE
ON EVERYTHING FROM
FOOD AND FASHION
TO BEAUTY TREATMENTS
AND ENTERTAINMENT.
PLUS 10 FREEBIES!**

THRILL\$

Cheap Thrill\$

lentil crackers with fabulous chutneys. **What to order:** Thali (\$7.25 to \$11.95, depending on the number of veg items and meats). Multiple kinds of chat—popular Indian street food meant for

Roswell, 770-650-9838. Primarily known as a lunch destination, the charming little house fronted by a tra-

DINING

20 Great Meals for Under \$20

BY CHRISTIANE LAUTERBACH

order: The above-mentioned early-bird menu will save you money. A typical lineup: white bean soup with truffle oil or Belgian endive and Roquefort salad, seared salmon with wild mushroom risotto and broccoli, crème brûlée (\$15 at lunch, \$18 at dinner between 5:30 and 7). Enjoy a glass of red or white wine with the meal for an extra \$3.

Crazy Chickn // 6200 Buford Highway, Norcross, 770-263-1909. You will enjoy the contagious good mood of this authentic new Ecuadorian restaurant and its simply decorated but comfortable dining room. **What to order:** Sopa de bola—a big bowl of thick beef soup with corn and a huge, round mashed plantain dumpling in the middle (\$7), chips with a fantastic green salsa (free), a whole chicken marinated in spicy sauce with french fries (\$8) and flan improbably translated as cheesecake (\$3). This meal is enough for two people.

Feast Restaurant // 314 East Howard Ave., Decatur, 404-377-2000. This exuberant, date-worthy new restaurant offers many of its menu items in two sizes, so the traditional distinction between starters and entrees can be pretty much ignored. **What to order:** Whole roasted Mediterranean sunfish with fresh garlic and rosemary olive oil (\$12). For dessert, a bread pudding with white chocolate glaze (\$6).

The Fickle Pickle // 1085 Canton St.,

Krog Bar // 112 Krog St., 404-524-1618. Chef Kevin Rathbun's hot new Mediterranean wine bar in Inman Park offers wonderfully tasty nibbles that are perfect for a satisfying cocktail hour, even if they don't technically constitute a full meal. **What to order:** Tasting of Italian olives (\$2); a plate of yellowtail crudo with piquillo peppers, chile oil and sherry vinaigrette (\$8); and a plate of hand-sliced serrano ham (\$8).



Malaya // 857 Collier Road, 404-609-9991. Discover a wonderful cuisine at this Backhead charmer of long standing. The kitchen doesn't stint on spices, and dishes such as Sambal or Rendang will set your mouth on fire. **What to order:** Keropok—puffy shrimp crackers (\$2.95); ajar—spicy Malaysian pickled vegetables (\$3.95); and kari ayam—classic Malaysian chicken curry with potatoes simmered and served in a clay pot with rice on the side (\$9.25).

Six Options for Frugal Fun

Atlanta Plant // atlantaplant.com

Sign up for e-mails with different discounts every week. Deals include two-for-ones and other offers of as much as 50 percent off of more than 300 organizations such as the Atlanta Ballet and Spivey Hall.

Atlanta Thrashers Practices //

atlantathrashers.com or 404-249-6400, ticketmaster.com. Practice facility: 2300 Satellite Blvd., Suite 200, Duluth. All practices on nongame days are open to the public, so check the practice schedule online and head to the IceForum in Duluth. Game deals include buy-one-get-one-free for \$25.

AtlantaTIX // 678-318-1400, atlantatix-

forms.com. Half-price tickets on the day of the event for venues like the Alliance Theatre, Dad's Garage Theatre and more. Walk-up-only service is available at Underground and Lenox. Arrive early for the best selection. Join the AtlantaTIX e-mail group or call to hear daily recorded lists.

Callaway Gardens // 1-800-CALL-

AWAY, callawayonline.com. Options abound at this 13,000-acre display garden, resort and preserve. Admission is \$13 for adults, \$6.50 for kids and free for ages 5 and under. Includes biking and hiking trails, fishing, swimming, paddle boats and manigull, as well as The Butterfly House and the Birds of Prey program.

Starlight Six Drive-In // 2000 More-

land Ave., starlightdrivein.com, 404-627-5766. Choose your movies, showing on one of six screens, and pick a spot under the stars. It's just \$6 per person (cash only) for two new release flicks, and kids ages 10 and under get in free.

"Take 5" Theater Package //

take5tickets.com. Enjoy a sampler platter with this pass for only \$50. Attend live performances at any of the 10 participating theaters, including 7 Stages and Five Colors Theater Company. —KERR SMITH