I give <u>Culvers 5</u> stars.

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## Culver's

The story of Culvers begins in 1950 when Craig Culver had deep roots in the Sauk Prairie community where he grew up and graduated from high school. It was there where his root beer stand provided the foundation from which Culver's grew. Soon later, Craig and Lea Culver, along with Craig's parents George and Ruth, opened the very first Culver's in the family's hometown of Sauk City, Wisconsin. There they began serving ButterBurgers and Frozen Custard. Craig knew exactly what to pair with his signature ButterBurger: Fresh Frozen Custard, a one-of-a-kind, ice-cream treat rooted in Wisconsin. He fell in love with ice cream back when he was a teen. Soon enough, they found that making quality products could make all the difference. It was his commitment to "doing it right" that laid the foundation for how Culver's makes their food today: made with care. In 1990, the first successful Culver's franchise opened in Baraboo, WI. Craig brought in new ideas, such as cheese curds, and fish fry that became a household favorite. Craig Culver succeeded because he understood precisely what made Culvers so special. Now as chief executive, Culver loves to work closely with his franchises and frequently can be seen working behind the counter at store openings.

In addition to moving his company forward, Culver also takes an active role in various organizations. He's a member of the National Restaurant Association and the Wisconsin Restaurant Association. In addition, he is a board member of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Foundation, American Family Insurance, and Kwik Trip. He currently chairs two fundraising efforts – one for the Wisconsin Historical Society's "Forward Campaign" and one for the Wisconsin Professional Golfers' Association to further the game of golf for juniors.

Every guest who comes to Culver's knows they'll love their signature ButterBurger. It is fresh never frozen beef, that's pressed and seared for full flavor. They call their ButterBurgers "ButterBurgers," not because they've been cooked, marinated, dunked, fried or drizzled with butter but because they lightly butter the crown of the bun. The butter they use on our buns also comes from right here in Wisconsin, crafted by farmers at Alcam Creamery.

Culvers is one of many outings that our friends agree to go on. Before or after any significant high school event, you'll probably find me, my brother, and friends sitting in a Culvers booth. Before Homecoming, after a soccer game win, after bowling, etc. It is a place to get together, socialize, and have fun. Most notably after an ITA basketball win. After having such a great time at the ITA basketball game, we scurry to Culvers to have even more fun. We all order, sit down, receive our table tent with a number on it, and receive our delicious food in minutes. Sitting there for an hour, we all talk about what's going on in everybody's lives, and what the "tea" is. Every time we go home with a smile on our face, knowing we ended the week on a very good note. Oh and let's not forget the best part of all; dessert which is the Custard!

Every year, my local Culvers would do an Easter egg hunt, where they would sprinkle an abundance of candy and Culvers chips that read "Free scoop of ice cream". Being the smart kid I was "wink wink", I would grab the Culvers chips, while the other kids grabbed the candy.

Obviously, the ice cream is worth way more than a single piece of candy. I would end up going home with 60+ tokens meaning me, and my family would have free Culver's ice cream for a whole year+. I felt rich and on top of the world flexing my Culver's chips. On long road trips, or if we're just having a bad day, we'll stop into Culvers to cheer us up. And it works every time. If we couldn't go, I would beg my parents to stop at a Culvers if I saw one. After arriving in Florida

after a long day of travel, and searching for a place to eat one of our first ideas was Culvers!

After getting situated and eating, we felt much happier and were ready to start our vacation.

An adult friend of mine named Jim Agate owns many Culvers throughout southern Wisconsin and Iowa. Jim was also a very hard worker as a teen, and he started working a normal job at a gas station and moved his way up. By working hard and staying loyal, Culvers offered him the chance to open up his own franchise. He accepted the offer and because of his dedication, is now wealthy. Jim is a very nice guy and is very humble. His Culvers' provides some scholarship money for every worker who chooses to go to college, which is a very nice thing. Since I work at one of Jim's other partner restaurants, I hope to receive scholarship money too, and I'm always happy to see him stop in every Sunday morning. I enjoy socializing with Jim's brothers and sisters and love how they're very nice and caring.

Culvers is such a fun place and we can all agree to that. The component of Wisconsin Dairy and the good food just makes you hungry. Culvers is a place to have fun with friends, talk, and meet new people. I and others can agree that we love the place. It's one of a few outings to do in Kenosha on a cold winter day. The food, the people, and the memories are all because of Craig Culver's hard work and ideas. Culver's is such a great Wisconsin custom that we can all agree to! Am I right? I give Culvers 5 stars!!!