

BAKERY

Suárez Bakery

• CHARLOTTE •

Inspiration from both North Carolina and points south are baked into the sweet treats at this shop on Park Road.

Suárez Bakery opened in 1992, but its nook in Charlotte’s oldest open-air shopping center has been home to a bakery since the ’50s. When Carlos Suárez — who was born in Cuba and lived in Miami before moving to North Carolina as a teenager — spotted the location, it was still Federal Bake Shop. Now, it’s his namesake, which he runs with his two sons. Suárez adopted some old-school classics, like cream horns, but ultimately established something unique to the area: unicorn sugar cookies and eight-inch Texas doughnut cakes, plus guava *pastelitos* and Cuban bread. The last is only available on Saturdays, when customers arrive early to snag their share. “We stick to an original recipe,” Suárez says, “straight from Miami.” It’s perfect for pressed sandwiches — but the bakers like to butter it, then dunk it in extra-strong coffee.

— Emma Laperruque

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Suárez Bakery merged The Old North State’s love of doughnuts with The Lone Star State’s “bigger is better” ethos. The result? A Texas doughnut cake.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LAURA SUMRAK