

THE WHY OF 'CUE

Smoked, pulled, rubbed, sauced, and chopped: Pitmasters transform everyday meat into barbecue, a food subculture all its own. These spots are a few of Oklahoma's best.

BY MEGAN ROSSMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LORI DUCKWORTH

Located along Route 66, the Butcher BBQ Stand in Wellston is one of Oklahoma's newer barbecue destinations.

Of TRUNK AND Trumph

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LORI DUCKWORTH

The country's second-largest herd of Asian elephants roams the rolling countryside of southeastern Oklahoma, giving animal lovers a chance to get an up-close view of these magnificent creatures.

BY KARLIE TIPTON

IT'S A TYPICAL April day in lush southeastern Oklahoma, and it's already muggy and creeping up to hot at ten in the morning. Fifty people of all ages have driven hours from Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Texas, and even Missouri to Hugo, a town of about 5,000 people—and eleven elephants. Giddy anticipation bubbles through the crowd of visitors as they climb onto what look like

extended golf carts that ferry them beyond a set of tall metal gates.

It took Kasa Holtfrerich and her husband Matthew almost a full tank of gas to get here from Norman. Spurred by a Facebook post and a recommendation from a friend, Kasa knew she wanted to spend her birthday here visiting the Endangered Ark Foundation, but she didn't quite know what to expect.

While some of the elephants at the Endangered Ark Foundation in Hugo were born in Thailand and brought to North America as calves, many—including two-year-old Dori Marie, here—were born in Oklahoma.