



MORTON GROVE

Restaurant Feature

Boba Burger

8530 Waukegan Road
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053
847-410-7779
boba-burger.letseat.at

HOURS
Monday - Sunday
11:30 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Boba Burger

is an unexpected culinary gem located in the Classic Bowl bowling alley at the intersection of Waukegan Road and Caldwell Avenue in Morton Grove. Named for bubble (boba) tea, this is a classic snack shop with a twist. Located in the front corner of the bowling alley, which has been around since 1970, Boba Burger conveniently serves bowlers and non-bowlers Asian fusion burgers, hot dogs, bahn mi sandwiches, salads and beverages. This Vietnamese-American family-run business has been serving Morton Grove residents and visitors, and garnering the attention of food critics, since 2015.

Brothers Chef Loc Tran and Anthony Kim Tran founded Boba Burger after years of bowling at Classic Bowl. The brothers saw that the alley's restaurant area was for lease and contacted the landlord, who noted that a large segment of his customer base was from the area's vibrant Asian community. The Boba Burger concept was ready to launch.

With years of experience in the food service industry, the Tran brothers



Chef Loc Tran and brother Anthony Kim Tran, Owners of Boba Burger

bring both expertise and passion to the table. Chef Loc has a culinary degree and over a decade of kitchen experience under his belt. Anthony Kim is a licensed mechanic who left the profession to be his brother's business partner. Both brothers worked in kitchens under their father, a veteran cook of over thirty years.

Arriving early each morning to prepare fresh ingredients with the assistance of friends and family, the brothers are proud to serve food nearly around the clock. This is not fast food, as each item is handcrafted once it is ordered. At Boba Burger, a commitment to quality always trumps speed.

Boba Burger's chef-driven menu is Asian fusion with a unique take on

burgers and hot dogs. According to Anthony Kim, the two most popular items are the Tokyo Dog, a tempura-fried hot dog with wasabi aioli, nori, picked veggies, sriracha, and ketchup, and the BBQ Lechon Burger, a 5-ounce beef patty with cheese, lettuce, tomato, lechon, BBQ sauce, and friend onion strings.

Customers enjoy a mix of flavorful offerings, including chicken tenders, eggrolls, Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches, salads, and hand-cut fries that are perfectly crisped and seasoned. The Tran brothers are proud of their fresh fruit boba shakes, which are made with combinations of watermelon, cantaloupe, pineapple, honeydew, strawberry, lychee, mango, avocado, jackfruit, triple berry, and super melon. Classic Vietnamese coffee and Thai iced tea are also popular items.

Boba Burger was recently voted "Best Burger" by Niles-Morton Grove Patch readers in May 2021. The restaurant has over 540 Yelp reviews and maintains a nearly five-star rating. CBS Chicago Channel 2 News and the Chicago Tribune have highlighted Boba Burger for its "Best Gourmet Dogs" in Chicago and "Great Asian Style Burgers."

During the pandemic, Boba Burger shifted to carry-out service only and lost some staff members, but was fortunately able to serve Classic Bowl patrons with take-out for the better part of a year. Loc and Anthony Kim will welcome guests back for in-person dining soon after the upcoming Fourth of July weekend. The brothers and their family are thankful for the support of Morton Grove residents over the past year.

The Village encourages you to check out Boba Burger at Classic Bowl and patronize the diversity of restaurants the community has to offer. Supporting Morton Grove restaurants bolsters the local economy and helps ensure that our businesses and commercial districts thrive for years to come. ■