



Moo Moo's Burger Barn in downtown Lodi boasts its pastrami burger. (Brian Feulner/News-Sentinel)

## Quality burgers and service are just icing on shake at Moo Moo's Burger Barn

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Sometimes an appetite calls for a good burger. Nothing else will do.

But if you just want a good burger, don't visit Moo Moo's Burger Barn in downtown Lodi. They only serve excellent burgers. In fact, after eating at Moo Moo's, I'm left with burger euphoria.

Missus and I were plenty hungry, and we knew we wouldn't leave the Burger Barn unsatisfied.

For those unfamiliar with the unique restaurant, there is a comforting, casual feel when you enter. The seating, whether table, booth or bar, is inviting and relaxing.

The staff is all smiles, and they're not faking. It's obvious they all enjoy what they do.

Moo Moo's menu isn't crowded, but there is plenty to choose from. Of course I was there to get my cheeseburger fix, but Missus was opting for a grilled chicken salad with a side of onion rings and fried zucchini. Actually, we split the sides.

From the moment our waitress Darcy Austin took our order till the time we were finished, the entire experience was completely worthwhile.



Randy Rios sprinkles a burger with a secret spice on a recent Tuesday afternoon. (Brian Feulner/News-Sentinel)

"If I wouldn't eat it, I wouldn't serve it to customers," said owner Ramzi Zumout. There are many philosophies such as that Zumout follows to make his business successful. Razmi Zumout, with his brother Nabil Zumout, started Moo Moo's in February 2004. Since then, they have added two Stockton locations.

Quality is priority at the restaurant, and it shows.

Not just the food — from burgers of all shapes and sizes to chicken dishes, salads, hot dogs and a kid's menu — but the staff and the eatery is all top notch. Ramzi Zumout prides the store on cleanliness and loyalty.

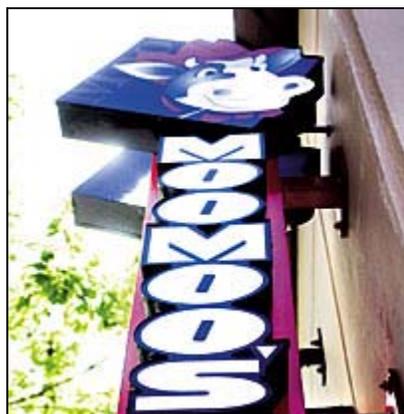
Employee Natalie Dejong has been with Moo Moo's since it opened and she was sixteen.

Randy Rios, another dedicated Burger Barn staffer, is enthusiastic about the family owned business. "I wouldn't be anywhere else. This place is going to go far," he said.

The Zumout brothers believe in hiring the right people.

"We can't hire them if we can't trust them to watch our kids," said Ramzi Zumout. "It's how you act when no one is looking. We don't just train, we develop employees."

### Restaurant At A Glance



**What:** Moo Moo's Burger Barn  
**Where:** 113 N. School St., downtown Lodi. 10940 Trinity Pkwy., Stockton. 222 N. El Dorado St., Stockton.  
**Hours:** 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Austin brought our dishes and plenty of napkins (you'll need it if you indulge the way I do).

The onion rings were the crispiest, lightest that Missus and I have ever eaten. The cheeseburger was juicy, succulent, decadent and just right. Her chicken salad was fresh and the chicken couldn't have been tastier.

Ramzi Zumout believes in the overall quality of the product. "You can't have good meat without good lettuce, good onions. And you can't have good onions and lettuce without good meat," he said. Everything works together to make the best possible result, he said.

Moo Moo's has recently opened two more locations in Stockton, but the Lodi restaurant will always be "home base" for owner Ramzi Zumout. (Brian Feulner/News-Sentinel)

**House Specialties:**  
Burgers, of course.  
**Information:** 369-9450.  
<http://www.moo-moos.com>

And he should know. Ramzi has been in the restaurant business since he was 13 years old and his father, Elias Zumout, opened a restaurant in Jordan. It was so popular, he says, that the King of Jordan would frequent the establishment.

Since then, Ramzi has worked his way up in various restaurants, starting as a dish washer,

then busser and so on.

He has been asked about franchising and says he wouldn't be comfortable unless he was in charge. However, they are looking to add more locations in other cities.

For the Missus and I, we wouldn't be at all disappointed if there was a Moo Moo's Burger Barn in every city we visited.

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