

# Dog Days

Seize the sizzle at Spartanburg's upscale street food joint, FR8yard

/by Ruta Fox

// photograph by Paul Mehaffey

**Y**ou can call them The Boys of Summer. The creators of Willy Taco have hit another culinary home run. FR8yard (Freight Yard), a 10,000 square foot open-air eatery, is their cross between a European *biergarten* and a good ol' Southern backyard party.

Fabricated from shipping containers situated below street level on Spartanburg's Main Street, and nestled between two exposed brick buildings, FR8yard brings a bit of Denver and Austin to Hub City. "We watched this lot stay empty for years, so we're thrilled about the new surge of investments, energy, people, and jobs in Spartanburg. We think our town is the best kept secret of the Upstate," says Kenneth Cribb.


Serving up elevated street food, hot dog connoisseurs will be dazzled by Chef William Cribb's house-ground sausages and mix-and-match, high-quality toppings. Start with a dog, either brat, smoked beef frank, chicken/basil/sundried tomato, or apple/sage, and go with his thoughtful flavor combos nicknamed Carolina, Wrigley, or Oktoberfest. Then customize with your choice of add-ons—dill spears, chopped or grilled onions, jalapeños, brisket chili, hop cheese, sauerkraut, chopped bacon, sport peppers, coleslaw, and neon relish. Goopy grilled cheese "melts" and "street meat"—their chargrilled chicken skewers, garnished with savory sauces—are also hits. Finish up with *churros*, topped with chocolate *ganache*, whipped cream, and Heath Bar crunch.



#### Bringing the Heat:

*While hot dogs are the main bill of fare at this Spartanburg joint, the chargrilled chicken skewers and grilled cheese are easy hits. Grab a cold brew or craft cocktail, and enjoy live music or a sporting event on the 20-foot jumbotron.*

Two 16-ounce craft cocktails are always on tap, affectionately known as "Yard Hooch." They switch out monthly and could include Tennessee Tea (Jack Daniels rye whiskey, mint tea) or Bathtub Gin (Death's Door gin, fresh orange juice, rosemary). Fourteen beers are available, from local to West Coast brews.

Bring the kids, bring the dog, play Ping-Pong, sit around the fire pit, catch the sounds of the Yard Dogs band on stage, or view a sporting event on the 20-foot jumbotron. Under the string lights, on a warm night, summer just doesn't get much better than this.  **FR8yard, 125 E Main St, Spartanburg. Tues-Wed, 4-10pm, Thurs, 4-11pm, Fri, 3pm-midnight, Sat, noon-midnight, Sun, noon-9pm; the restaurant is an al fresco environment, so check the website for weather closings: <https://fr8yard.com>.**