

Shaved Ice

These flavored treats will cool you off in seconds flat—and are so worth the brain freeze.

BY KARA WILLIAMS | PHOTOGRAPH BY KATE SEARS

NEW ORLEANS

THE SPOT Ashley Hansen, owner of **Hansen's Sno-Bliz** (4801 Tchoupitoulas St., 504-891-9788), uses the same stainless-steel ice-shaving machine her grandfather built in 1939. Her grandparents' legacy lives on inside the white and pink cinder-block building, where photos and memorabilia cover the walls.

THE SPECS Each fluffy snowball (or Sno-Bliz) is so powdery soft that syrup must be poured on in layers to saturate each concoction, like the rich, sherbetlike Cream of Blueberry (from \$2).

CHICAGO

THE SPOT Sandwiched between brick row houses in Little Italy, **Mario's Italian Lemonade** (1068 W. Taylor St.) attracts a mix of elderly neighbors, university students and stroller-toting families. Mario DiPaolo Jr. mans the red, white and green stand that his parents founded 62 years ago.

THE SPECS Don't be surprised to find chunks of lemon rind, pulp and seeds in your cup of not-too-tart, not-too-sweet slushy lemonade (from \$1). Hands-on proprietor Mario picks up Sunkist lemons and Domino Sugar himself, just like his dad did for decades.

DALLAS

THE SPOT Be prepared to wait in line outside **Aunt Stelle's Sno-Cones** (2002 W. Clarendon Road, 214-946-1431), housed in a onetime barbershop. On summer evenings, fans head to the stand, named for co-founder Estelle Williams, who opened it in 1962.

THE SPECS The best-selling Pink Lady (from \$2) is bubblegum colored, but tastes like vanilla. Owner Lee Alpert, Estelle's daughter, says fans drive from 30-plus miles away to get their fix.

HONOLULU

THE SPOT On an island teeming with cups of flavored ice, **Waiola Shave Ice** (2135 Waiola St., 808-949-2269) stands out for its superfine, melt-in-your-mouth consistency and for its odd location, in a residential section of Honolulu. Order at a walk-up window adjacent to the corner convenience store.

THE SPECS Try the popular rainbow-colored trio, flavored with strawberry, banana and blue vanilla (\$2). Locals like to top it with adzuki beans, mochi balls and sweetened condensed milk. No matter how you like it, ask for "shave ice," not "shaved ice," if you please.

