

Ode to Aldi

Eva Westein | Entertainment Editor



Photo by Carlo Martin Alcordo from [Pexels](#)

Stop and smell the savings.

The click of the quarter sliding into place as the shopping cart is temporarily unshackled is music to my ears. I have never experienced the embarrassing misfortune of a squeaky wheel or wobbly cart. That must be part of the magic of Aldi.

The automatic doors woosh open, and a familiar maze unfolds before me. The lights are fluorescent, but Aldis are always comparatively small for a grocery chain, so it doesn't ever feel too clinical.

I glance down at the grocery list in my hand, knowing in the back of my mind that I'll inevitably end up leaving here with a little something extra. My list is full of Aldi staples, of course, like

everything bagel sourdough and “Never Any!” brand spinach and feta chicken sausage. But the most exciting part about Aldi shopping is their weekly specials.

The more I wander the aisles, the more treasures I end up throwing into my cart. Sometimes my finds are wonderfully seasonal, like pumpkin spice cream cheese or heart-shaped ravioli. Other times, it isn't even food. I also have a pillow on my bed and a massive aloe plant in my living room, thanks to Aldi. You truly never know what you're going to find. To make things even more exciting, Aldi's “Weekly Finds” are usually available while supplies last, and you never know if or when they'll appear in stores again.

With my grocery list checked off and the aisles sufficiently prowled, it is time to head to the checkout. If there's anything to know about Aldi before your first trip, it's that the cashiers waste no time. At first, their speed can be intimidating, but I've quickly come to appreciate their efficiency.

With the cheerful “beep” of the barcode scanning, I begin to watch my total climb. But as I look at the pile of groceries in my cart and the final cost on the register screen in front of me, it almost doesn't compute in my brain. At any other store, I'd only walk away with half this amount of groceries for the same cost. It must be an Aldi miracle.

As I step off to the side to bag my groceries, I quickly realize that I might not have brought enough reusable shopping bags to hold all of my goodies. Looks like I'll have to spend another few dollars on another reusable bag. A small price to pay for such a successful trip.

Those Europeans sure do know how to run a grocery store chain.