

DINING IN PASADENA: MORE THAN 500 OPTIONS FOR EAGER TASTEBUDS

PASADENA, CA – Located only 11 miles north of downtown Los Angeles, Pasadena is much more than just big parades and football games. Graced by jacaranda trees along its main streets and boulevards, this vibrant city boasts world-class art collections, historic landmarks, and an endless assemblage of exciting entertainment and nightlife experiences at hundreds of restaurants, bars, theatres and world-class venues spread throughout this historic town.

Serving cuisine from all parts of the world, Pasadena offers more than 500 restaurants – more per capita than New York City. Diners can choose from charming outdoor cafes to elegant dining rooms and everything in between. Steak aficionados can dine at Pasadena’s signature steakhouses, including the renowned Arroyo Chop House, Ruth’s Chris Steak House and Houston’s. For those who crave something more exotic, the city features numerous fusion restaurants like Maison Akira, which offers fine French cuisine with a Japanese flair. And just minutes off of the historic Route 66, bistros and cafes like Avanti Café’s gourmet wood-fired pizza and Bistro 45’s fresh French California cuisine line the streets.

Zagat has named Pasadena’s Trattoria Neapolis as “One of LA’s 12 Hottest New Restaurants.” Located on South Lake Avenue, the 150-seat upscale restaurant features Italian cuisine from award-winning Chef Bryant Wigger. Wines from Italy and California, an onsite sommelier, 14 craft beers on tap and an array of cocktails complement the menu.

A unique experience is offered at Technique. Not only one of Pasadena’s most upscale restaurants, it is the playing ground for one of only 16 internationally renowned Le Cordon Bleu-affiliated culinary schools in the United States, the Le Cordon Bleu School of Culinary Arts Los Angeles. Culinary students prepare both an exquisite tasting menu and a full dinner menu., The Le Cordon Bleu has been one of the leading authorities on culinary techniques, training and development for more than a century. Reservations are recommended.

When the sun goes down, Pasadena comes alive with a plethora of bars and nightlife dotted throughout the city. Combining a lively, eclectic and sophisticated atmosphere featuring live music, flamenco dancing and late-night DJ’s, Bar Celona is a taste of Spain in historic Old Pasadena. And just down the block sits Bar Celona’s sister restaurant Villa Sorriso Ristorante & Bar. Main dining rooms and open courtyards are available in this charming Italian restaurant, which serves more than 20 specialty martinis in its stunningly modern and stylish martini bar and lounge area.

Pasadena’s three pedestrian-friendly districts offer a vast number of dining options:

The 22 blocks of **Old Pasadena** now constitute a completely renovated entertainment district, where the city’s 19th century architecture showcases more than 200 buildings dating back to the late 1800s. Old Pasadena’s Eden Garden Bar & Grill boasts a full calendar of entertainment, with culinary masterpieces to salivate any palate! For wine lovers, film producer Gale Anne Hurd and celebrated Chef Sara Levine offer an inspired menu complementing an extensive wine cellar at Vertical Wine Bistro.

Add 1-1-1/ Pasadena Dining

Upscale shops, restaurants and offices bring a European ambiance to the 10 blocks of **South Lake Avenue**. South Lake Avenue exudes 1940s retro charm as a sophisticated cosmopolitan destination. After a long day of lugging around bags of new purchases, tired shoppers can dine at the elegant-yet-casual Celestino Ristorante Italiano. Homemade pastas and specialty dishes are a taste of Italy available during any shopper's lunch or dinner.

The Playhouse District is home to summertime concerts, festivals, an annual art market and plenty of meticulously preserved historical buildings built in the 1900s-1930s. Noir Food & Wine, located in the Playhouse district on Mentor, presents Provencal, Piedmontese and New Orleans-influenced small plates and offers an extensive wine selection for the enjoyment of any wine connoisseur.

In Pasadena, an exciting variety of restaurants and eateries are waiting to be discovered, experienced and enjoyed. It is a city with a mix of the best of the old and new, and it has lovingly combined its deep cultural heritage with its vibrant modern culture, making Pasadena one of Southern California's finest and most unique destinations.

ABOUT PASADENA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau is a non-profit marketing organization dedicated to promoting Pasadena as a desirable meeting, convention and leisure travel destination. For more information and assistance in planning meetings and special events in Pasadena, contact the Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 307-7977 or log on to www.VisitPasadena.com.

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