

MLA '07 Restaurant Guide



How the Restaurant Committee Prepared this Guide

Philadelphia has many, many wonderful restaurants. It was very hard to choose among them for this guide. You will notice that our world-famous restaurants, like Le Bec-Fin, for example, are not included. That is because we wanted to make the guide useful to the majority of MLA attendee—for these renowned eateries, reservations are required months in advance and the cost of a meal is very, very high.

So, we concentrated on restaurants that are favorites with the committee members, fairly close to the conference venue, and priced reasonably. We included a few in other sections of the city in case you are visiting our museums, universities, or colorful neighborhoods.

Our reviews are not exhaustive; they just give the flavor of the place. Almost all the entries have Websites listed where you can examine the menus and prices and double-check hours of operation.

Cost Indicators

We assigned each entry a symbol based on the cost of an average entrée. It does not include the 7% city sales tax charged on food. You are urged to consult the individual restaurant's Website for more precise information.

\$ = Under \$10

\$\$ = \$11–20

\$\$\$ = \$21–35

\$\$\$\$ = over \$35

Information about Pennsylvania Liquor and Beer Purchases

A number of the listed restaurants do not sell alcohol so you can “bring your own bottle” (BYOB). Pennsylvania has state controlled liquor stores where wine and hard liquor are sold; beer has to be purchased in delicatessens or bars. Your best bet for locating a convenient place to buy a six-pack is to ask at the MLA hospitality desk or consult the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown staff.

A map of all the wine and spirit stores in Center City Philadelphia can be found at www.gophila.com/byobmap/

The addresses of the two closest to the Marriott are:

- 5 North 12th Street (just north of Market Street), Philadelphia, PA 19107–4117
- 1218 Chestnut Street (on Chestnut between 12th and 13th), Philadelphia, PA 19107-5410

The Reading Terminal Market

Across 12th Street from the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown is the Reading Terminal Market (www.readingterminalmarket.org/), a fixture in Philadelphia since 1892. It was originally a shipping terminus for products sent out on the Main Line of the Philadelphia Railroad.

“Today the Market is home to more than 80 merchants, two of whom are descendants of the original standholders from a century ago. You can find an eclectic array of fresh baked Amish goods, produce direct from the field, unusual spices, free range meats and poultry, flowers, ethnic foods, and much more.”

There are about thirty restaurants where you can get a quick and interesting meal. Just be aware that the Terminal closes at 6 p.m., Monday–Saturday (except the Down Home Diner which is open until 7 p.m.) and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, so breakfast and lunch are your best bets.

Their Website lists hours of operation and provides a map showing the location of all the merchants.

Chinatown

Just a word about Chinatown. It is very close to the Marriott—some restaurants are just one block away. We could not list all the good places in this guide, but you will not go wrong by taking a stroll and looking at the posted menus. Most of the restaurants are inexpensive and good for groups.

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

Ansill \$\$

627 S. 3rd Street; 215.627.2485; accepts credit cards
Reservations required for dinner; 15 minute cab ride
Hours: Dinner: Sunday–Thursday, 5:30–10 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 5:30–midnight
Happy Hour: Monday–Friday, 5:00–7:00 p.m.
Website www.ansillfoodandwine.com/

Located in Society Hill/Queen Village, just below South Street, “where all the hippies meet,” this European style restaurant offers small plates that encourage sampling and sharing. Excellent for a light meal or snack.

Bellini Grill \$\$

220 S. 16th Street; 215.545.1191; accepts credit cards
No reservations needed; BYOB; 15 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride
Hours: Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.; Saturday, 4–11 p.m.; Sunday, 3–9 p.m.
Website: www.bellinigrill.com

Fish and homemade pasta are the specialties at this Italian restaurant serving both Northern and Southern Italian food. Some vegetarian dishes.

Bliss \$\$\$

220–224 S. Broad Street; 215.731.1100; accepts credit cards
Hours: Lunch: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; Dinner: Monday–Thursday, 5–10 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 5–11 p.m.; closed Sunday
Website: www.bliss-restaurant.com

Catch your breath at this tranquil bar/restaurant just a few steps from the convention center. The menu is contemporary American blended with Asian-inspired cuisine. The space is serene and cozy, the food is delightful, and the servers are knowledgeable.

Capogiro \$

119 S. 13th Street; 215.351.0900; *cash only*
No reservations; Accommodates groups
Hours: Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m.–midnight; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–10 p.m.
Website: www.capogirogelato.com/

A European style café best known for its gelato, with new flavors daily. They also serve soups, panini sandwiches, and salads.

Charles Plaza \$\$

234 N. 10th Street; 215.829.4383; accepts credit cards
Reservations recommended; BYOB
Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m.–midnight; Saturday, 3 p.m.–midnight; Sunday, 3–10:30 p.m.

Serves chicken and seafood, no other meat, mostly organic vegetables, very vegetarian friendly—separate woks, half of menu is vegetarian.

Cherry Street Chinese Vegetarian \$\$

1010 Cherry Street; 215.923.3663; accepts credit cards

Reservations recommended for 4 or more; BYOB

Hours: Monday–Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sunday, noon–11 p.m.

Website: www.cherrystvegetarian.com/

Chinese vegetarian cuisine. Kosher supervision: Rabbinical Assembly

City Tavern \$\$\$

138 S. 2nd Street; 215.413.1443; accepts credit cards

Reservations required; outdoor seating in garden; 15 minute cab ride.

Hours: Daily, 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

Website: www.citytavern.com/

An historical recreation of an 18th century tavern, the building was completed in 1976 and is a faithful replica of the famous tavern that entertained the founding fathers. The waitstaff dresses in colonial attire and a harpsichord plays in the sitting room bar. The menu is American (traditional) with historically based dishes: turkey pot pie in rich sherry cream sauce (a Martha Washington recipe), West Indies pepper pot soup, and roasted duckling.

Coco's \$

112 S. 8th Street; 215.923.0123; accepts credit cards

No reservations needed; Accommodates groups; 10 minute walk

Hours: Daily, noon–2 a.m.

Appetizers and sandwiches in a sports bar setting; vegetarian options.

Copa Too! \$\$

263 S. 15th Street; 215.735.0848; accepts credit cards

Hours: Daily, 11:30 a.m.–1:15 a.m.

There's nothing fancy about Copa Too, but the happy-hour after-work crowd has known for years that it is one of the best spots in the city for margaritas, burgers, and fries. Spread out over two somewhat cramped floors, Copa Too boasts a variety of beer on tap, as well as a wide range of tequilas to make the perfect margarita. Burger aficionados will find lots to satisfy them here: there is a seemingly endless list of toppings available in every imaginable combination. Fries are also a specialty and come with a variety of accompaniments. Beyond these two staples, the rest of the menu is vaguely Tex-Mex.

Cuba Libre \$\$\$

10 S. 2nd Street; 215.627.0666; accepts credit cards

Reservations suggested; good for groups; outdoor seating; 15 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; Dinner: Daily, 4–11 p.m.; Tropical Brunch:

Saturday–Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; Late Dining: Friday–Saturday, 11p.m.–1 a.m.

Website: www.cubalibrerestaurant.com/

Havana in the '40s is recreated in this lively Cuban restaurant. Specialties include an El Cubano pork sandwich as well as more substantial dishes like ropa vieja and arroz con pollo. The mojitos are a must have.

Devil's Alley \$\$

1907 Chestnut Street; 215.751.0707; accepts credit cards

Reservations suggested for parties of six or more; 20 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride

Hours: Monday–Friday, from 11 a.m.; Saturday, from 4 p.m.; Sunday Brunch, 10 a.m.– 3p.m.

Website www.devilsalleybarandgrill.com/

Creative and affordable sandwiches, entrees, bar food. The decor is urban and industrial softened by lots of greenery.

El Vez \$\$

121 S. 13th Street; 215.928.9800; accepts credit cards

Reservations suggested for dinner

Hours: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–11:00 p.m., Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–midnight; Sunday, 3:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

Website: www.elvezrestaurant.com/

Mexi-fabulous El Vez gets an edge for being just plain fun. This restaurant with its Las Vegas-ized take on Tijuana—supersized velvet dining nooks, Charo’s face on the bar stools, a wall plastered with postcards, a photo booth in the dining room, a gilded bicycle above the bar—serves tasty food and potent margaritas. Opt for a funky booth over the noisy bar.

Fado Irish Pub \$\$

1500 Locust Street; 215.893.9700; accepts credit cards

No reservations needed; accommodates groups; 15 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride

Hours: Daily, 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m.

Website: www.fadoirishpub.com/philadelphia/

Traditional Irish dishes, boxtys, sandwiches, and an all day Irish breakfast. Fine selection of draught and bottled beers.

Fergie's Pub \$\$

1214 Sansom Street; 215.928.8118; accepts credit cards

Hours: Monday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–2 a.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m.–1 a.m.

Website: www.fergies.com/

A traditional Irish pub, Fergie's specialties include stick-to-your-ribs pub fries, burgers with toppings like guacamole and sautéed mushrooms, fish and chips, and shepherd's pie. Sound awfully meat-tastic? Fergie's looks out for its veg friends, too, serving a killer cheddar-topped (optional) chili with a fat hunk of cornbread. The beer list includes Nodding Head grog, Smithwick's, and Yard's Philly Pale Ale. Quiet sipping takes place downstairs Monday through Thursday, but watch out for rowdier, possibly geekier crowds on Tuesdays and Thursday nights; that's when the Quizzo masters are set loose.

Gianna's Grille \$

507 S. Sixth Street; 215.829.4448; accepts credit cards

Delivery available; no reservations needed; 15 minute cab ride

Hours: Tuesday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.; Friday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.; closed Monday

Website: www.giannasgrille.com/

When vegans dream, they dream of Gianna's. The ridiculously veg-friendly hideout looks like a school cafeteria (read: not great for date night) but smells like mama's kitchen. Carnivores will enjoy G's take on cheese steak and other meat-tastic delights, while vegetarian options include the Buffalo Freebird sandwich (veggie chicken, hot sauce, hot peppers, and soy cheese), a veggie meatball sub, and an all-veg barbecue bacon cheeseburger. Bakery items are made without animal products, including Oreo Mud Pie Cheesecake, the Tiramisu Bomb, and black and white milkshakes. (Also, Gianna Jr's recently opened 106 South 20th Street 215.568.1580)

Gigi \$\$\$

319 Market Street; 215.574.8880; accepts credit cards

Reservations recommended; accommodates groups; 15 minute cab ride

Hours: Daily, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.

Website: www.gigiphilly.com/

Mediterranean inspired dishes for brunch, lunch, dinner, and late evening. Enjoy drinks and tapas or a full meal in this trendy restaurant. Offers vegetarian entrees.

Good Dog \$

224 S. 15th Street; 215.985.9600; accepts credit cards
 No reservations necessary; 15 minute walk or 5 minute cab ride
 Hours: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–1 a.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 4 p.m.–1 a.m.
 Website: www.gooddogbar.com/
 Comfort food abounds in this neighborhood bar known for its burgers.

Govinda's Café \$\$

1408 S. Street; 215.985.9303; accepts credit cards
 Reservations accepted; BYOB; 20 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride
 Hours: Breakfast: Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (except Tuesdays); Dinner: Monday–Thursday and Saturday, 5–11 p.m.
 Website: www.govindasvegetarian.com/
 Daily buffet includes 10–12 dishes. A la carte selections also available. Vegetarian, Asian, Indian, and international cuisine. Very vegan friendly.

Horizons \$\$\$

611 S. 7th Street; 215.923.6117; accepts credit cards
 Reservations required; Up one flight; 10 minute cab ride
 Hours: Tuesday–Thursday, 6 -10 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 6–11 p.m.
 Website: www.horizonsphiladelphia.com/
 Upscale vegan with full bar service, attentive wait staff. Small but comfortable dining room. Walk-ins served at 1st floor bar.

Imperial Inn \$\$

146 N. 10th St.; 215.627.2299; accepts credit cards
 Reservations recommended; good for groups
 Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11:00 a.m.–midnight; Friday–Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 a.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 p.m.
 For more than twenty years, this restaurant has been a reliable mainstay in bustling Chinatown. The décor could stand a bit of an update, but the crowds who come for dim sum on weekends do not seem to mind. The fried Phoenix roll is a specialty: lobster, shrimp, crab, chicken, mushrooms, and bean sprouts.

Jones \$\$

700 Chestnut Street; 215.223.5663; accepts credit cards
 15 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride
 Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–midnight; Friday, 11:30 a.m.–1 a.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m.–1 a.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–11 p.m.
 Website: www.jones-restaurant.com/
 A casual restaurant and lounge serving comfort food. Specialties include mac and cheese, meatloaf, and fried chicken. Try the Thanksgiving dinner, yup, turkey and all the trimmings, anytime.

Kabul Restaurant \$\$

106 Chestnut Street; 215.922.3676; accepts credit cards
 No reservations necessary; accommodates groups; BYOB; 15 minute cab ride
 Hours: Daily, 4–10 p.m.
 Website: www.kabulafghancuisine.com/
 Afghan kebabs and other mildly spiced Middle Eastern dishes served in a friendly, quiet atmosphere.

Karma \$\$\$

114 Chestnut Street; 215.925.1444; accepts credit cards

Hours: Lunch: Monday–Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; Dinner: Monday–Thursday, 4:30–10 p.m.;

Friday, 4:30–11 p.m.; Saturday, noon–11 p.m.

Sunday, noon–10 p.m.

Website: www.thekarmarestaurant.com/

Overall, the atmosphere is one of trendy elegance. The food complements the vibe perfectly, with appetizers like crab cakes topped with brandy chutney and "nargisi moti" (Scotch eggs with a spicy dipping sauce). Entrees are also more refined than at other Indian joints; choices include rack of lamb and chicken steeped in a saffron-infused herb marinade, as well as an inclusive vegetarian menu.

Kingdom of Vegetarians \$\$

129 N. 11th Street; 215.413.2290; accepts credit cards

Reservations recommended for 4 or more; BYOB

Hours: Daily, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.

Chinese Vegan. Kosher supervision: Rabbinical Assembly

Konak \$\$\$

228 Vine Street; 215.592.1212; accepts credit cards

15 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Tuesday–Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thursday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.; Dinner:

Tuesday–Thursday, 4:30–10 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 4:30–midnight; Sunday Brunch, 10:30 a.m.–2:30

p.m.; closed Monday

Website: www.konakturkishrestaurant.com/

Service is quick, efficient, and gracious. In the must-try category is the sigara borek, a plate of four crisp pastry "cigars" filled with feta cheese and parsley. Kebobs and other grilled meats play a major role on the menu, though there are also several fish and vegetarian entrees. The mixed combo plate is a wonderful Turkish smorgasbord of meats served with two sauces, a garlicky yogurt not unlike tzatziki and a bitter tomato sauce.

La Fontana della Citta \$\$\$

1701 Spruce Street; 215.875.9990; accepts credit cards

Reservations recommended; good for groups; BYOB; 20 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Dinner: Monday–Friday, 4–10:30 p.m.; Saturday, 3–11:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2–10 p.m.

Website: www.lafontanadellacitta.com/

This restaurant opened fairly recently and boasts well-made classic Italian dishes and attentive, unpretentious service.

Lolita \$\$

106 S. 13th Street; 215.546.7100; *cash only*

Reservations required; BYOB

Hours: Sunday–Thursday, 5 p.m.–10:30 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 5–11 p.m.

Website: www.lolitabyob.com/

Contemporary Mexican food. Noisy but fun. Fresh local farm ingredients used when possible. Great guacamole!

London Grill \$\$\$\$

2301 Fairmount Avenue; 215.978.4545; accepts credit cards

Reservations suggested; good for groups; outdoor seating; Sunday brunch; 10–15 minute cab ride

Hours: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. and 5:30–10:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m. and 5:30–10:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m. and 4:30–9 p.m.

Website: www.londongrill.com/

A fixture in the area for at least twenty years, the London Grill is within walking distance of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Offering American food, there's an inexpensive bar menu as well as a full-service restaurant.

Ludwig's Garten \$\$

1315 Sansom Street; 215.985.1525; accepts credit cards

Reservations recommended but not required; accommodates small or large groups

Hours: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m.; Saturday–Sunday, noon–2 a.m.

Website: www.ludwigsgarten.com/

An authentic German tavern serving everything from kartoffelpuffer to Wienerschnitzel. Ludwig's also claims to have one of the most extensive selection of beers in the country.

Maccabean Restaurant \$

128 S. 12th Street; 215.922.5922; accepts credit cards

Reservations accepted; BYOB (bottles will be checked for kosher symbols); 10 minute walk

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sunday, noon–8 p.m.

Middle Eastern Cuisine, serves meat with vegetarian options. Casual décor. Better to bring beer than wine. Kosher Supervision: Mekor Baruch Orthodox

Maggiano's Little Italy \$\$

1201 Filbert Street; 215.567.2020; accepts credit cards

Reservations encouraged; good for groups; private dining rooms

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.; Sunday, noon–10 p.m.

Website: www.maggianos.com/locations/detail.asp?unit_id=001.025.0168

Right across the street from the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, this large family-style chain restaurant serves southern Italian food. Huge portions!

Mama Palma's Gourmet Pizza \$\$

2229 Spruce Street (22nd and 23rd Streets); 215 735.7357; no credit cards

No reservations accepted; BYOB if you want anything other than beer; 10–15 minute cab ride

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 4–10 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.; Sunday, 2–10 p.m.

First courses are heavy on the roasted peppers, including big basic salads, an excellent polenta plate, and warm corn kernels and fresh rosemary atop slices of Italian bread. Skip pasta specials and go straight for the pies. Pizzas come topped with roasted eggplant, fresh ricotta, capers, sun-dried tomatoes, and clams, plus less traditional toppings such as Peking duck, brie, and chicken dijon, turning potentially combative combinations into sensible pairings. You can't miss with traditional pies like roasted sausage or Margherita, and gourmet-style foodies will appreciate the challenging concoctions. Small pies are enough for one hungry eater; mediums are for two or three; and a large should satisfy a group of four. Fat-free and soy cheese available, all pies can be served on white or wheat crust.

Mamas Vegetarian \$

18 S. 20th Street; 215.751.0477

Reservations not necessary; 15 minute walk or cab ride

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 p.m.–7 p.m.; closed Saturday

Middle Eastern vegetarian; dairy and eggs served; vegan friendly. Pita baked on site. Self-serve, tables available. Kosher supervision: Community Kashrus of Greater Philadelphia.

Marathon on the Square \$\$

19th and Spruce Streets; 215.731.0800; accepts credit cards

Reservations suggested for larger parties; 20 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.–midnight; Saturday, 8 a.m.–midnight; Sunday, 8 a.m.–10 p.m.

Website: www.marathongrill.com/

Comfortable American cuisine in a polished but casual atmosphere. Fresh ingredients, large salads, omelets, sandwiches, and entrees. Brunch menu available on weekends.

Marigold Kitchen \$\$\$

501 S. 45th Street; 215.222.3699; accepts credit cards

Reservations encouraged; BYOB; 15–20 minute cab ride

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 5:30–10 p.m.

Website: www.marigoldkitchenbyob.com/

Sophisticated and whimsical contemporary American cuisine served in a charming Victorian home. The calendar-correct menu combines unusual ingredients in surprising and delicious ways.

Matyson \$\$\$

37 S. 19th Street; 215.564.2925; accepts credit cards

Reservations required; BYOB; 20 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Monday–Friday, 11:30–2:30 p.m.; Dinner: Monday–Thursday, 5–10 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 5–11 p.m.

Website: www.matyson.com/

Contemporary American with some eclectic dishes. Specialties include roasted pork chop, steak with fries, and Thai fish stew.

McCormick & Schmick's \$\$\$

1 S. Broad Street; 215.568.6888; accepts credit cards

Reservations required

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–11:00 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m.–midnight; Saturday, 4 p.m.–midnight; Sunday, 4–10 p.m.

Website: www.mccormickandschmicks.com/

Renowned for its seafood, this national chain restaurant is sophisticated and club-like, with high-back chairs and paneled walls. The menu features some thirty varieties of fish and is recreated twice a day to reflect what is freshest. Scrumptious beef and chicken are offered as well as seafood. There is a special bar menu that features burgers, fish tacos, steamed mussels. A bit pricey.

The Melting Pot \$\$\$\$

1219 Filbert Street; 215.922.7002; accepts credit cards

Reservations required; great for groups

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 5–10 p.m.; Friday, 5–11 p.m.; Saturday, 4–11 p.m.

Website: www.meltingpot.com/

The Melting Pot is more expensive than many of the restaurants in this guide, but it has two distinct advantages: it is just across the street from the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown and is perfect for large groups. The gimmick here is fondue, which is ideal for sharing. If you are really hungry, order the “big night out”—a chance to try several cheese fondues; a selection of fish, chicken, and beef fondues; and chocolate fondue for dessert.

Naked Chocolate Café

1317 Walnut Street; 215.735.7310; accepts credit cards

No reservations

Hours: Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–11 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

Website: www.nakedchocolatecafe.com/

Coffee, tea, and chocolate—what more could you ask for? Great desserts and Euro-style hot chocolate. Pricey, but wonderful!

Nan \$\$

4000 Chestnut Street; 215.382.0818; accepts credit cards

Reservations required; BYOB; 15 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Tuesday–Saturday, noon–2:30 p.m.; Dinner: Tuesday–Saturday, 5–10 p.m.; closed Sunday–Monday

Website: www.nanrestaurant.com/

A wonderful fusion of Thai and French food blended in updated, exquisite flavors. You may find both chicken sate and escargots on the menu. The green salad is large enough for two. The décor is minimalist, a single flower in a bud vase and soft colored walls. Don't be deterred by the nondescript outside appearance!

New Delhi Indian \$\$

4004 Chestnut Street; 215.386.1941; accepts credit cards

No reservations necessary; accommodates groups; 15–20 minute cab ride

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, noon–10 p.m.; closed Monday

Website: www.newdelhiweb.com/

Some consider this the best Indian restaurant in Philadelphia. Diners can order from an extensive menu or visit the buffet. Vegetarian options.

New Harmony Vegetarian Restaurant \$\$

135 N. 9th Street; 215.627.4520; accepts credit cards

Reservations recommended for 4 or more; BYOB; private room

Hours: Daily 11:30 a.m.–11:30 p.m.

Chinese vegetarian cuisine. Kosher supervision: Rabbinical Assembly.

The Plough and the Stars \$\$\$

123 Chestnut Street; 215.733.0300; accepts credit cards

Reservations suggested; outdoor seating ;15 minute cab ride

Hours: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 a.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–1:00 a.m.

Website: www.ploughstars.com/

This is an upscale Irish pub with a very nice atmosphere. Dark wood furniture and a working fireplace. The menu offers some traditional favorites such as shepherd's pie, but there's a wide range of non-Irish dishes. Good brew selection. Sunday afternoon hear Irish music from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday brunch from 10:30a.m.–3:30 p.m. is their best offering.

Positano Coast \$\$

212 Walnut Street, 2nd Floor; 215.238.0499; accepts credit cards

Reservations required; outdoor seating; 15 minute cab ride

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–11:00 p.m.; Sunday, noon–9 p.m.

Website: www.lambertis.com/

A taste of Southern Italy's Amalfi Coast, right in Philadelphia. Floor-to-ceiling photos that create a modern, yet intimate feel. Friendly and accommodating staff. The menu is modern Italian offering small plates for sharing and creative variations of many classic Italian dishes. What to drink? Try the Positano Lemon Drop liqueur.

Ralph's \$\$

760 S. 9th Street; 215.627.6011; CASH ONLY

Reservations recommended; wheelchair accessible; 15 minute cab ride.

Hours: Daily, noon–9:45 p.m.

Website: www.ralphsrestaurant.com/

A true South Philly Italian restaurant, serving customers for over 100 years. Traditional Southern Italian dishes. Vegetarian meals available.

Rangoon \$\$

112 N. 9th Street; 215.829.8939; accepts credit cards

Reservations accepted; wheelchair accessible

Hours: Sunday–Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Website: www.phillychinatown.com/rangoon.htm

The only Burmese restaurant in the city, Rangoon offers traditional dishes like chili shrimp, thousand-layer bread with potato curry dip, vegetarian keema and spinach salad. There are also fried rice dishes and a large selection of soups and noodle offerings.

Ray's Café And Tea House \$

141 N. 9th Street; 215.922.5122; accepts credit cards

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.–10 p.m.; Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Closed Sunday

Website: www.rayscafe.com/

Good Chinese food—but go for the coffee! Limited menu that is vegetarian friendly. Six to seven tables only.

Roys \$\$\$

124–34 S. 15th Street; 215.988.1814; accepts credit cards

Reservations required; private dining rooms

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 5:30–10 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 5:30–11 p.m.; Sunday, 5:30–9 p.m.

Website: www.roysrestaurant.com/

Hawaiian Fusion Cuisine blends fresh local ingredients with European sauces and Asian spices. Lots of seafood. Convenient and delicious.

Sang Kee Peking Duck House \$

238 N. 9th Street; 215.925.7532; accepts credit cards

Good for groups

Hours: Sunday–Thursday, 11:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–midnight

Website: www.phillychinatown.com/sangkee.htm

Peking duck isn't the only delicious dish served here but it is wonderful. Hong Kong style cooking—try their signature noodle dishes.

Sansom Street Oyster House \$\$\$

1516 Sansom Street; 215.567.7683; accepts credit cards

Reservations suggested

Hours: Monday–Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sunday, 4–10 p.m..

Website: www.sansomoysters.com/

Philly-style fish house serving a variety of seafood dishes since 1947. Best known for their Oysters Rockefeller and raw bar.

Santa Fe Burrito Company \$

212 S. 11th Street; 215.413.2378; accepts credit cards

10–15 minute walk

Hours: Monday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.; closed Sunday

Website: www.santafeburrito.com/

A few tables, mostly take-out. Mexican, Southwestern. Serves meat and shellfish but is vegetarian friendly. Vegan owned.

Seafood Unlimited \$\$\$

270 S. 20th Street; 215.732.3663; accepts credit cards

Reservations suggested; 20 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Monday–Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; Dinner: Monday–Thursday, 5–9:30 p.m.;

Friday–Saturday, 5–10:30 p.m.; Sunday, 5–9 p.m.

Website: www.seafoodunlimited.com/

This little restaurant just off Rittenhouse Square was in earlier times a fish retailer with a few tables. In 2003, Seafood Unlimited reinvented itself as a comfortable seafood restaurant that also sells fish. It offers some of the city's best chowders, seared yellow fin tuna nicoise salad, oysters on the half shell, and the best crab cakes.

Standard Tap \$\$

901 N. 2nd Street (Poplar Street); 215.238.0630; accepts credit cards

Reservations not necessary; 20 minute cab ride

Hours: Daily, 5 p.m.–1 a.m.; Weekend Brunch: 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Website: www.standardtap.com/

This old fashioned pub serves simple American food like steaks and hamburgers but offers oysters and octopus too. Portions are generous. At least thirteen kinds of beer on tap daily. Great quality for the price.

Su Xing House Restaurant \$\$

1508 Sansom Street; 215.564.1419; accepts credit cards

Reservations accepted; BYOB

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–10:30 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.; Sunday, noon–10 p.m.

Website: www.suxinghouse.com/

Chinese vegetarian cuisine (some dairy and eggs, but vegan friendly). Extensive and unusual beverage menu including milk tea with tapioca and taro milk shake.

TEQUILAS \$\$\$

1602 Locust Street; 215.546.0181; accepts credit cards

Reservations necessary; accommodates groups; 15 minute walk or 10 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Daily, 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.; Dinner: Daily, 5–10 p.m.

Website: www.tequilasphilly.com/

Great authentic Mexican food and drinks. Over ninety different tequilas available.

Vietnam Palace \$

222 N. 11th Street; 215.592.9596; accepts credit cards

Reservations accepted; good for groups

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 11:00 a.m.–9:45 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Website: www.vietnampalacephilly.com/

Positioned directly across from its competitor, Vietnam Restaurant, Vietnam Palace serves an exceptional pho rice noodle soup, usually accompanied by fresh basil, mint, and crisp bean sprouts. Vietnam Palace also offers ordinary Vietnamese dishes including needle noodles, lemongrass chicken, crepes, and salt-

battered seafood. Try the homemade green tea ice cream or sip one of many flavors of milkshake, sweetened with avocado, jackfruit, and pungent durian. Plenty of vegetarian options as well.

Vietnam Restaurant \$

221 N. 11 Street; 215.592.1163; accepts credit cards

Reservations *not* accepted

Hours: Sunday–Thursday, 11 a.m.– 9:30 p.m., last seating, 9 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–10:30 p.m., last seating 10 p.m.

Website: www.eatatvietnam.com/

See previous review.

Villa Di Roma \$\$

936 S. 9th Street; 215.592.1295; *cash only*

Reservations accepted every day but Saturday; good for groups; 15 minute cab ride

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 4–10:30 p.m.; Friday–Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2–10 p.m.

Located in the Italian Market area, this family-owned restaurant is a real Philadelphia experience complete with waitresses who call you “hon.” Top-notch traditional southern Italian food. Villa di Roma is a fixture in South Philadelphia.

White Dog Café \$\$\$

3420 Sansom Street; 215.386.9224; accepts credit cards

Reservations encouraged; accommodates groups; 15–20 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Monday–Saturday, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; Brunch: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; Dinner: Monday–Thursday, 5:30–10 p.m., Friday–Saturday, 5:30–11 p.m.; Sunday, 5–10 p.m.; Grill: Monday–Saturday, 2:30 p.m.–1 a.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m.–midnight; Bar: Open daily until 2 a.m.

Website: www.whitedog.com/

A Philadelphia and University City institution, the White Dog was founded by Judy Wicks, a leader in the fair-trade, organic, locally grown movements. The menu reflects these views and emphasizes farm-fresh ingredients, so specials change daily. Check out the artwork and décor—white dogs are everywhere! Black Cat gift shop is next door.

Zocalo \$\$

3600 Lancaster Avenue; 215.895.0139; accepts credit cards

Reservations encouraged; accommodates groups; 15–20 minute cab ride

Hours: Lunch: Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; Dinner: Monday–Saturday, 5–10 p.m.; closed Sunday.

Website: www.ucnet.com/zocalo/

Contemporary Mexican cuisine with both a price fixe menu and a la carte choices. Great appetizers and cocktails. Vegetarian entrees available.

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Gigi

Good Dog

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Jones

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Marigold Kitchen

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The Melting Pot

Roys

Standard Tap

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Govinda's Café

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New Harmony Vegetarian Restaurant

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Center City (walking distance from Marriott)

Bliss

Capogiro

Copa Too!

Fergie's Pub

Lolita

Ludwig's Garten

Maggiano's Little Italy

McCormick & Schmick's

The Melting Pot

Naked Chocolate Cafe

Roys

Center City (at least 10 minute walk or cab ride from the Marriott)

Bellini Grill

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