

CONTENTS

[Select Restaurant](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Washington's Most Popular Restaurants](#)

[Top Ratings](#)

[Best Buys](#)

[Special Features](#)

[Explanation of Ratings & Symbols](#)

[Wine Vintage Chart](#)

To make restaurant selections based on ratings, price, cuisine, features and location, click on the **FIND** button.

INTRODUCTION

Here is a small sample -- 71 restaurants in the Downtown area-- taken from our *1993 Washington, D.C. Restaurant Survey*, which covers more than 450 restaurants in the D.C. area. Over 2,200 people participated in this year's survey. Since the participants dined out an average of 2.74 times per week, this *Survey* is based on over 310,000 meals eaten in area restaurants.

By surveying large numbers of local restaurant-goers, we think we have achieved a uniquely reliable guide. We hope you agree. On the assumption that most people want a "quick fix" on the places at which they are considering eating, we have tried to be concise and to provide handy indexes.

Knowing that the quality of this *Survey* is the direct result of their thoughtful voting and commentary, we sincerely thank each of the participants. They include numerous professionals, business executives and just plain folks -- food lovers all.

We are especially grateful to Olga Boikess, a Washington lawyer and avid restaurant-goer, who has organized and edited this *Survey* since it was first published in the fall of 1986.

We invite you to be a reviewer in our next *Survey*. To do so, simply send a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope to ZAGAT SURVEY, 4 Columbus Circle, New York, N.Y. 10019 so that we will be able to contact you. Each participant will receive a free copy of the next *Washington, D.C. Restaurant Survey* book when it is published. Your comments, suggestions and criticisms of this Survey are also solicited. There is always room for improvement -- with your help!

New York, New York Nina and Tim Zagat

TOP RATINGS

(Excluding restaurants with voting too low to be reliable.)

[Top Food Ratings](#)

[Top Spots By Cuisine](#)

Top Decor
Top Rooms
Top Views
Top Service

BEST BUYS

Top Bangs for the Buck
Additional Good Values

SPECIAL FEATURES

Buffet Served
Entertainment
Historic Interest
Hotel Dining
Late Late -- After Midnight
Teas
Winning Wine Lists
Worth a Trip

WASHINGTON'S MOST POPULAR RESTAURANTS

Each of our reviewers has been asked to name his or her five favorite restaurants. The spots most frequently named, in order of their popularity, are:

1. L'Auberge Chez Francois
2. Inn at Little Washington
3. Galileo
4. Jean-Louis
5. Le Lion d'Or
6. I Ricchi
7. Prime Rib, The
8. Twenty-one Federal
9. Rio Grande Cafe
10. Bice
11. Morton's of Chicago
12. Morrison-Clark Inn
13. Nora
14. Obelisk
15. Palm, The
16. La Colline
17. Two Quail
18. Red Sage
19. Aux Beaux Champs
20. Bombay Club
21. Jockey Club, The

22. Taberna del Alabardero
23. Occidental Grill
24. Dining Room, The
25. Le Gaulois
26. I Matti
27. Willard Room
28. Pleasant Peasant
29. Peking Gourmet Inn
30. La Brasserie
31. Cheesecake Factory, The
32. 1789
33. Old Ebbitt Grill
34. Duangrat's
35. Primi Piatti
36. Lebanese Taverna
37. Mr. K's
38. Maison Blanche
39. La Chaumiere
40. Mrs. Simpson's

Although many of the restaurants listed above are among the area's more expensive, this year's list of favorites also reflects the fact that regular restaurant-goers are more interested than ever in value-oriented dining. Some of the most popular restaurants also offer good Bang for the Buck. See also Additional Good Values.

TOP FOOD RATINGS*

(In order of rating)

- 29 -- Inn at Little Washington*
- 27 -- Le Lion d'Or
 - Jean-Louis
 - L'Auberge Chez Francois
- 26 -- Yannick's
 - Prime Rib, The
 - Dining Room, The
 - Coeur de Lion
 - Obelisk
 - Galileo
- 25 -- Imperial Hotel*
 - Pizzeria Paradiso
 - Morrison-Clark Inn
 - Morton's of Chicago
 - Nicholas
 - Twenty-one Federal
 - Patisserie Cafe Didier
 - Le Caprice
 - Nora
 - Haandi
 - Colonnade, The
- 24 -- Aux Beaux Champs
 - La Bergerie
 - Peking Gourmet Inn
 - I Ricchi
 - Melrose
 - Lucie
 - Busara
 - Willard Room
 - Tivoli
 - Duangrat's
 - R.T.'s
 - Jordan's
 - Sushi-Ko
 - Tachibana
 - Bice
 - Dusit
 - Bleu Rock Inn
 - La Colline
 - Taberna del Alabardero

Excluding restaurants with voting too low to be reliable.
Over an hour away.

TOP SPOTS BY CUISINE*

Top American

- 29 -- Inn at Little Washington*
- 26 -- Coeur de Lion
- 25 -- Imperial Hotel*
Morrison-Clark Inn
Nicholas

Top Breakfast*

- 25 -- Patisserie Cafe Didier
- 24 -- La Colline
- 23 -- La Brasserie
- 22 -- Le Bon Cafe
- 20 -- Florida Ave. Grill

Top Brunch

- 27 -- Yannick's
- 26 -- Coeur de Lion
- 25 -- Morrison-Clark Inn
Colonnade, The
- 24 -- Aux Beaux Champs

Top Business Lunch

- 27 -- Le Lion d'Or
- 26 -- Yannick's
Prime Rib, The
Coeur de Lion
Galileo

Top Chinese

- 24 -- Peking Gourmet Inn
- 23 -- Sunny Garden
City Lights of China
Mr. K's
Fortune

Top Continental

- 24 -- Tivoli
- 23 -- Jockey Club, The
- 22 -- Hay-Adams Dining Rooms
Powerscourt
- 21 -- Montpelier Restaurant

Top French Bistros

- 24 -- La Colline
- 23 -- Le Refuge
La Brasserie
Le Mistral
Le Gaulois

Top French Classic

- 27 -- Le Lion d'Or
L'Auberge Chez Francois
- 25 -- Le Caprice
- 24 -- La Bergerie
La Colline

Top French Contemporary

- 27 -- Jean-Louis
- 26 -- Yannick's
Dining Room, The
- 24 -- Aux Beaux Champs
- 22 -- Maison Blanche

Top Hamburgers

- 22 -- Occidental Grill
- 21 -- Morrison House Grill
- 20 -- Houston's
Artie's
Carlyle Grand Cafe

Top of the Hill

- 24 -- La Colline
- 23 -- La Brasserie
Le Mistral
- 22 -- Powerscourt
Le Bon Cafe

Top Hotel Dining

- 27 -- Jean-Louis
- 26 -- Yannick's
Dining Room, The
Coeur de Lion
- 25 -- Morrison-Clark Inn

Top Indian

- 25 -- Haandi
- 22 -- Food Factory
Bombay Palace

Bombay Club
21 -- Katmandu

Top Italian

26 -- Obelisk
Galileo
24 -- Bice
I Ricchi
23 -- Vincenzo

Top Japanese

24 -- Tachibana
23 -- Tako Grill
Hisago
Unkai
22 -- Matuba

Top Latin

22 -- Lauriol Plaza
21 -- La Plaza
Terramar
La Cantinita
19 -- El Caribe

Top Mexican

22 -- Rio Grande Cafe
20 -- Tia Queta
Austin Grill
South Austin Grill
19 -- Enriqueta's
La Posada

Top Middle Eastern

23 -- Kazan
Panjshir
22 -- Lebanese Taverna
Nizam's
Kabul Caravan

Top Night Spots

20 -- Cafe Atlantico
Casablanca
River Club
19 -- Marrakesh
18 -- Mo Sussman's

Top Outdoor Dining

- 27 -- L'Auberge Chez Francois
- 26 -- Galileo
- 24 -- Bice
- 23 -- La Brasserie
- 22 -- 701

Top Pizza

- 25 -- Pizzeria Paradiso
- 21 -- Primi Piatti
I Matti
Faccia Luna
- 20 -- Notte Luna

Top Pubs

- 24 -- R.T.'s
- 20 -- Houston's
- 18 -- Union St. Public House
Old Ebbitt Grill
- 17 -- Guards, The

Top Seafood

- 21 -- Falls Landing
Crisfield
- 20 -- Sea Catch
- 17 -- Steamers
O'Donnell's Restaurant

Top Southeast Asian

- 23 -- Germaine's
- 21 -- Straits of Malaya
- 20 -- Sarinah Satay House
- 19 -- Pan Asian Noodles & Grill
- 18 -- Sabang

Top Southwestern

- 22 -- Red Sage
Rio Grande Cafe
- 21 -- Cottonwood Cafe
- 20 -- Santa Fe East
Armadilla Grill

Top Steakhouses

- 26 -- Prime Rib, The

- 25 -- Morton's of Chicago
- 23 -- Sam & Harry's
- 22 -- Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Palm, The

Top Thai

- 24 -- Busara
Duangrat's
Dusit
- 22 -- Sala Thai
Bua

Top for Tourists

- 22 -- Occidental Grill
Red Sage
- 20 -- Dominique's
- 18 -- Old Ebbitt Grill
- 17 -- Sequoia

Top Vietnamese

- 24 -- East Wind
Taste of Saigon
- 23 -- Queen Bee
Cafe Dalat
Saigon Gourmet

Top Worth a Drive

- 29 -- Inn at Little Washington
(Washington, VA)
- 27 -- L'Auberge Chez Francois
(Great Falls, VA)
- 25 -- Imperial Hotel
(Chestertown, MD)
- 24 -- Bleu Rock Inn
(Washington, VA)
- 23 -- Fiddler's Green
(The Plains, VA)

Top for Young Children

- 22 -- Rio Grande Cafe
- 21 -- Red Hot & Blue
- 20 -- Generous George Pizza
- 19 -- Hard Times Cafe
Geppetto

Other than hotels.

TOP DECOR*

(In order of rating)

- 29 -- Inn at Little Washington
- 28 -- Willard Room
- 27 -- Dining Room, The
Grill, The (Tysons Corner)
Restaurant, The
L'Auberge Chez Francois
- 26 -- Red Sage
Coeur de Lion
Colonnade, The
Hay-Adams Dining Rooms
Busara
Taberna del Alabardero
Aux Beaux Champs
- 25 -- Imperial Hotel
1789
Morrison-Clark Inn
Grill, The (Pentagon City)
Prime Rib, The
Nicholas
Gaslight
Le Lion d'Or
- 24 -- Jean-Louis
Bombay Club
Lucie
Two Quail
Sequoia
Mr. K's
Bice
Old Angler's Inn
Bleu Rock Inn
701
Marrakesh
- 23 -- Occidental Grill
Unkai
Galileo
River Club
Jockey Club, The
Hisago
Melrose
Santa Fe East

TOP ROOMS

(In alphabetical order)

Aux Beaux Champs
Bombay Club
Busara
Coeur de Lion
Colonnade, The
Dining Room, The
Gaslight
Grill, The (Pentagon City)
Grill, The (Tysons Corner)
Hay-Adams Dining Rooms
Inn at Little Washington
Jean-Louis
Lucie
Morrison-Clark Inn
Nicholas
Prime Rib, The
Red Sage
Restaurant, The
1789
Taberna del Alabardero
Two Quail
Willard Room

TOP VIEWS

(In alphabetical order)

Bleu Rock Inn
Bristol Grill
Chart House, The
Gangplank
L'Auberge Chez Francois
Le Rivage
New Heights
Perry's
Potowmack Landing
Sequoia

TOP SERVICE*

(In order of rating)

- 28** -- Inn at Little Washington
26 -- Jean-Louis
Coeur de Lion
L'Auberge Chez Francois
Dining Room, The
Imperial Hotel
25 -- Le Lion d'Or

- Willard Room
 Aux Beaux Champs
 Colonnade, The
- 24 -- Nicholas
Prime Rib, The
 Grill, The (Tysons Corner)
 Gaslight
 Lucie
Taberna del Alabardero
 Yannick's
 Bleu Rock Inn
 Grill, The (Pentagon City)
Hay-Adams Dining Rooms
Powerscourt
- 23 -- Morrison-Clark Inn
 La Bergerie
 Busara
 Obelisk
 Bonaroti
 Restaurant, The
 Jefferson Restaurant, The
 Nora
Mr. K's
 Tivoli
 Galileo
 Kazan
 Twenty-one Federal
 1789
 Unkai
701
- 22 -- Two Quail
Bombay Club
 Jockey Club, The

TOP BANGS FOR THE BUCK

This list reflects the best dining values in our *Survey*. It is produced by dividing the cost of a meal into the combined ratings for food, decor and service.

1. Bob & Edith's Diner
2. Hard Times Cafe
3. Reeves Restaurant and Bakery
4. Crisp & Juicy
5. Florida Ave. Grill
6. Patisserie Cafe Didier
7. Generous George Pizza
8. Le Bon Cafe

9. Philadelphia Mike's
10. C.F. Folks
11. Pho 75
12. Cafe Dalat
13. Il Pizzico
14. Crepe a la Carte
15. Little Viet Garden
16. Sunny Garden
17. Armadilla Grill
18. Silver Diner
19. Fish Wings & Tings
20. Faccia Luna
21. Dusit
22. Food Factory
23. Ledo Pizza
24. Anita's
25. Cafe Saigon
26. Meskerem
27. Hard Rock Cafe
28. Pizzeria Paradiso
29. Austin Grill
30. Il Forno
31. Queen Bee
32. Hogs on the Hill
33. Montego Cafe
34. Artie's
35. Hunan
36. Atlacatl
37. El Tamarindo
38. Taste of Saigon
39. Abi
40. Far East
41. Hunan Number One
42. Bangkok Orchid
43. Good Fortune
44. Chili's Grill & Bar
45. Bua
46. Thai Kingdom
47. Wurzburg-Haus
48. Sala Thai
49. Haandi
50. Nam Viet
51. Thai Palace
52. Boogies Diner
53. City Lights of China
54. Saigon Gourmet

55. Bread & Chocolate
56. Fortune
57. Hunan Chinatown
58. Houston's
59. Pines of Italy
60. House of Chinese Chicken
61. Seven Seas
62. Hamburger Hamlet
63. Red Hot & Blue
64. Pan Asian Noodles & Grill
65. Delhi Dhaba
66. Skewers
67. Hunan on Capitol Hill
68. Hsiang Foong
69. Mike's American Grill
70. Busara
71. House of Chinese Gourmet
72. China Canteen
73. Milano's (Baltimore)
74. Rio Grande Cafe
75. Duangrat's
76. Mixtec
77. Ecco
78. Kabul Caravan
79. Hunan Lion
80. Old Glory All Am. Barbecue
81. Ploy
82. T.G.I. Friday's
83. Panjshir
84. Matuba
85. Thai Taste
86. Thai Place
87. Cactus Cantina
88. Louisiana Express Company
89. Cambodian
90. La Posada
91. Foong Lin
92. Atami
93. Suzanne's American Kitchen
94. Sabang
95. Bangkok Gourmet
96. Lebanese Taverna
97. Sarinah Satay House
98. Geppetto
99. Cheesecake Factory, The
100. Katmandu

ADDITIONAL GOOD VALUES

(A bit more expensive, but worth every penny)

Alexander's
Andalucia
Bacchus
Bamiyan
Bilbo Baggins
Bistro Bistro
Bistro Francais
Bombay Club
Bombay Palace
Cafe Atlantico
Cafe Petitto
Cajun Bangkok
Carlyle Grand Cafe
Chadwick's
Cities
East Wind
Enriqueta's
Fern Street Bistro
Fiddler's Green
Full Kee
Four Rivers
Head's
Ivy's Place
I Matti
Inn at Glen Echo
Kazan
Kabul West
La Cantinita
La Taverna d'Italia
Lauriol Plaza
Lavandou
Le Chef d'Oeuvre
Le Gaulois
Le Mistral
Listrani's
Madeo
Martin's Tavern
Metro Center Grille
Mr. Yung's
Nizam's
Notte Luna
Odeon Cafe
Old Ebbitt Grill

Paolo's
Peking Gourmet Inn
Perry's
Pines of Italy
Pines of Rome
Place on K Street
Pleasant Peasant
Portner's
R.T.'s
Sam Woo
Santa Fe East
Shari Ghul-Ghula
Szechuan
Tabard Inn
Tachibana
Tako Grill
Tavola
Thai Flavor
Tia Queta
Trattoria Verdi
Tullio
Union Street Public
House
Veneziano

Buffet Served

Bombay Bistro	(lunch)
<u>Celadon</u>	(lunch)
Delhi Dhaba	(lunch, dinner)
Evans Farm Inn	(lunch)
Ichiban	(lunch)
Restaurant, The	(Friday nite dinner)
Sam Woo	(lunch)
Taverna Cretekou	(lunch)
Thai Flavor	(lunch)
<u>Tony Cheng's Mongolian</u>	(lunch, dinner)
<u>Trader Vic's</u>	(lunch)
Verona	(lunch)

Entertainment

(Check times)

(accordion)	Wurzburg-Haus
(band)	Meskerem
(belly dancing)	Casablanca
(big band)	Mo Sussman's

(D.J.)	Cities
(D.J.)	<u>Gangplank</u>
(D.J.)	Martinique's
(D.J.)	Sign of the Whale
(flamenco)	El Bodegon
(guitar)	Taverna Cretekou
(jazz)	Bistro Bistro
(jazz)	Chardonnay
(jazz)	Ecco
(jazz)	Fern Street Bistro
(jazz)	Inn at Glen Echo
(jazz)	Jefferson Restaurant
(jazz)	Little Viet Garden
(jazz)	<u>Notte Luna</u>
(jazz)	Paolo's
(jazz)	<u>Pier 7</u>
(jazz)	Skewers
(jazz)	Twenty-one Federal
(jazz)	<u>Wolensky's</u>
(jazz/blues)	Suzanne's
(Latin American)	<u>Tullio</u>
(Manassas-blues)	Red Hot & Blue
(opera)	<u>Primi Piatti</u>
(piano)	<u>Allegro</u>
(piano)	Colonnade, The
(piano)	Fedora Cafe
(piano)	Gary's
(piano)	Gaslight
(piano)	Grill, The (RC at TC)
(piano)	La Ferme
(piano)	La Mirabelle
(piano)	Morrison House Grill
(piano)	Restaurant, The
(piano)	<u>Riverview</u>
(piano)	Tivoli
(piano)	<u>Willard Room</u>
(piano/accordion)	Evans Farm Inn
(piano/bassist)	<u>Prime Rib, The</u>
(piano/D.J.)	River Club
(piano/guitar)	Potowmack Landing
(piano/jazz)	Coeur de Lion
(piano/jazz)	<u>701</u>
(piano/jazz)	<u>West End Cafe</u>
(piano; varies)	<u>Cafe Mozart</u>
(varies)	Kramerbooks
(violin/accordion)	Vagabond

Historic Interest

(Year Opened)

1800 Bilbo Baggins
1800 Santa Fe East
1854 Jordan's
1860 1789
1865 Morrison-Clark Inn
1869 Hermitage Inn
1871 Gaslight
1883 Portner's
1905 Two Quail
1920 Old Angler's Inn

Hotel Dining

ANA Hotel	Colonnade, The
Bleu Rock Inn	Bleu Rock Inn
Bristol Hotel	Bristol Grill
Canterbury Hotel	Chaucer's
Capitol Hilton	<u>Trader Vic's</u>
The Carlton	<u>Allegro</u>
Channel Inn	<u>Pier 7</u>
Embassy Row Hotel	Lucie
Embassy Suites Hotel, VA	Carnegie Deli
Four Seasons Hotel	Aux Beaux Champs
Georgetown Inn	Georgetown Bar & Grill
Governor's Hse. Holiday Inn	Herb's
Hay-Adams Hotel	<u>Hay-Adams Dining Rooms</u>
Henley Park Hotel	Coeur de Lion
Holiday Inn Crown Plaza	<u>Metro Center Grille</u>
Hyatt Regency, MD	Fellini's
Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill	<u>Jonah's</u>
The Imperial Hotel	Imperial Hotel
Inn at Little Washington	Inn at Little Washington
Jefferson Hotel	Jefferson Restaurant, The
JW Marriott Hotel	<u>Celadon</u>
Madison Hotel	Montpelier Restaurant
Mayflower Hotel	Nicholas
McLean Hilton Hotel	Martinique's
Morrison House Hotel	Morrison House Grill
Morrison-Clark Inn	Morrison-Clark Inn
Park Hyatt Hotel	Melrose
Phoenix Park Hotel	<u>Powerscourt</u>
Radisson Park Terrace Hotel	Chardonnay
Radisson Plaza Hotel	Yannick's
Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City	Dining Room, The

	Grill, The
Ritz-Carlton, Tyson's Corner	Grill, The
	Restaurant, The
Ritz-Carlton Hotel, D.C.	Jockey Club, The
River Inn	<u>Foggy Bottom Cafe</u>
Tabard Inn	Tabard Inn
Watergate Hotel	<u>Jean-Louis</u>
	<u>Riverview</u>
Willard Hotel	<u>Willard Room</u>

Late Late -- After Midnight

12 AM	<u>America</u>
12 AM	Carlyle Grand Cafe
12 AM	<u>Hard Rock Cafe</u>
12 AM	Herb's
12 AM	Meskerem
12 AM	<u>Monocle, The</u>
12 AM	<u>Old Ebbitt Grill</u>
12 AM	Paolo's
12 AM	Perry's
12 AM	Sequoia
12:30 AM	Cottonwood Cafe
1 AM	Artie's
1 AM	<u>China Inn</u>
1 AM	Good Fortune
1 AM	Kramerbooks
1 AM	Seven Seas
1:30 AM	Sign of the Whale
2 AM	<u>Big Wong</u>
2 AM	El Tamarindo
2 AM	<u>Full Kee</u>
2 AM	Hawk 'n' Dove
2 AM	Hunan Number One
2 AM	Montego Cafe
2 AM	River Club
3 AM	Bistro Francais
24 hrs.	Bob & Edith's Diner

Not in *Survey*.

Teas

Allegro

ANA Hotel (Lobby)

Bleu Rock Inn

Bread & Chocolate

Four Seasons Hotel (Lobby)

Hay-Adams Dining Rooms

Henley Park Hotel (Wilkes Room)

The Jefferson Restaurant

Kramerbooks & Afterwords Cafe

Le Bon Cafe

Morrison House Hotel (The Parlor)

Melrose

Patisserie Cafe Didier

Ritz-Carlton Hotel at Pentagon City (Lobby lounge)

Ritz-Carlton Hotel at Tysons Corner (Lobby lounge)

Watergate Hotel (Potomac Lounge)

Willard Room

See *Hotels*.

Winning Wine Lists

Artie's

Aux Beaux Champs

Bice

Cafe Mozart

Chardonnay

Colonnade, The

Dining Room, The

Dominique's

Galileo

Germaine's

Grill, The (Tysons Corner)

Hay-Adams Dining Rooms

I Ricchi

Inn at Little Washington

Jean-Louis

Jefferson Restaurant, The

Jockey Club, The

La Brasserie

L'Auberge Chez Francois

La Colline

Le Lion d'Or

Maison Blanche

Montpelier Restaurant

Morrison-Clark Inn

Nicholas
Obelisk
Prime Rib, The
Sam & Harry's
1789
Taberna del Alabardero
Tiberio
Tivoli
Tragara
Twenty-one Federal
Vincenzo
Yannick's

Worth a Trip

MARYLAND

Chestertown	Imperial Hotel
Potomac	Old Angler's Inn

VIRGINIA

Great Falls	Dante
	L'Auberge Chez Francois
Leesburg	Jordan's
The Plains	Fiddler's Green
Washington	Bleu Rock Inn
	Inn at Little Washington

Explanation of Ratings & Symbols

FOOD, **DECOR** and **SERVICE** are each rated on a scale of 0 to 30 in columns marked **F**, **D** and **S**:

0 - 9 = poor to fair
10-19 = good to very good
20-25 = very good to excellent
26-30 = extraordinary to perfection

The **COST** column, headed by a **C**, reflects the estimated price of a dinner with one drink and tip. As a rule of thumb, lunch will cost 25 percent less.

An **Asterisk (*)** after a restaurant's name means the number of persons who voted on the restaurant is too low to be statistically reliable; **L** for late means the restaurant serves after 11 PM; **S** means it is open on Sunday; **X** means no credit cards are accepted.

By way of **Commentary**, we attempt to summarize the comments of the *Survey* participants, occasionally retaining a prior year's comment where appropriate. The prefix **U** means comments were uniform; **M** means they were mixed.

The names of the restaurants with the highest overall ratings and greatest popularity are printed in solid capital letters, e.g. "**JEAN-LOUIS**."

If we do not show ratings on a restaurant, it is either an important **newcomer** or a popular **write-in**; however, comments are included and the estimated cost, including one drink and tip, is indicated by the following symbols:

- I** = below \$15
- M** = \$15 to \$30
- E** = \$30 to \$50
- VE** = \$50 or above

Wine Vintage Chart 1982 - 1992

These ratings are designed to help you select wine to go with your meal. They are on the same 0 to 30 scale used throughout this *Survey*. The ratings reflect both the quality of the vintage and the wine's readiness to drink. Thus if a wine is not fully mature or is over the hill, its rating has been reduced. The ratings were prepared principally by our friend, Howard Stravitz, a law professor at the University of South Carolina. See [Winning Wine Lists](#) for a list of restaurants with excellent wine selections.

WHITES	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	WHITES
French:												French:
Burgundy	23	15	11	28	29	15	23	28	25	16	24	Burgundy
Loire Valley	--	--	--	19	18	14	19	26	25	14	15	Loire Valley
Champagne	29	23	--	25	24	--	--	26	25	--	--	Champagne
Sauternes	--	28	--	21	26	--	27	26	23	--	--	Sauternes
California:												California:
Chardonnay	--	--	--	--	--	19	26	19	28	25	26	Chardonnay
REDS	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	REDS
French:												French:
Bordeaux	29	26	15	28	25	18	24	26	24	19	20	Bordeaux
Burgundy	18	26	--	28	12	22	24	25	27	23	24	Burgundy
Rhône	16	25	--	26	21	14	26	26	24	17	15	Rhône
Beaujolais	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	25	23	24	18	Beaujolais
California:												California:
Cabernet/ Merlot	23	16	25	26	25	25	17	20	24	23	21	Cabernet/ Merlot
Zinfandel	--	--	18	18	17	20	15	16	19	19	17	Zinfandel
Italian:												Italian:
Chianti	16	13	--	26	15	--	23	--	24	--	--	Chianti
Piedmont	25	--	--	26	11	18	21	26	24	--	--	Piedmont
	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	

Bargain sippers take note -- some wines are reliable year in, year out, and are reasonably priced as well. These wines are best bought in the most recent vintages. They include: Alsatian Pinot Blancs, Côtes du Rhône, Muscadet, Bardolino, Valpolicella and inexpensive Spanish Rioja and California Zinfandel.

FOOD is rated on a scale of **0** to **30**:

- 0-9= poor to fair
- 10-19= good to very good
- 20-25= very good to excellent
- 26-30= extraordinary to perfection

If we do not show a food rating on a restaurant, it is either an important **newcomer**, a popular **write-in**, or it has a **new chef**.

DECOR is rated on a scale of **0** to **30**:

- 0-9= poor to fair
- 10-19= good to very good
- 20-25= very good to excellent
- 26-30= extraordinary to perfection

If we do not show ratings on a restaurant, it is either an important **newcomer** or a popular **write-in**.

SERVICE is rated on a scale of **0** to **30**:

- 0-9= poor to fair
- 10-19= good to very good
- 20-25= very good to excellent
- 26-30= extraordinary to perfection

If we do not show ratings on a restaurant, it is either an important **newcomer** or a popular **write-in**.

COST reflects the estimated **price of a dinner with one drink and tip**. As a rule of thumb, lunch will cost 25 percent less. If a restaurant is an important **newcomer** or a popular **write-in**, the estimated cost is indicated by the following symbols:

- I** = below \$15
- M** = \$15 to \$30
- E** = \$30 to \$50
- VE** = \$50 or above

S means the restaurant is open on Sunday.

L for late means the restaurant serves after 11 PM.

X means no credit cards are accepted.

An **Asterisk (*)** after a name means the number of persons who voted on the restaurant is too low to be statistically reliable.

The prefix **U** means comments were uniform. By way of **Commentary**, we attempt to summarize the comments of the *Zagat Restaurant Survey* participants.

The prefix **M** means comments were mixed. By way of **Commentary**, we attempt to summarize the comments of the *Zagat Restaurant Survey* participants.

<u>F</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>C</u>	
--	--	--	M	

Allegro /S

Carlton Hotel, 923 16th St., NW (K St.), 202-879-6900

Just two blocks from the White House, this stately Contemporary Continental boasts handsome interiors that dignify the most casual business chatter; ideal for breakfast confabs and power teas, the cultivated ambiance and cuisine make lunch or dinner no hardship either; P.S. some of DC's most elegant private parties are held in the lovely courtyard.

Cuisine: Continental.

Features:

- Brunch
- Business Meetings
- Entertainment (piano)
- Hotel Dining (The Carlton)
- Outdoor Dining (terrace)
- Valet Parking
- Saturday Lunch
- Sunday Dining (brunch, dinner)
- Teas
- Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
15 18 16 \$20 |

America /L S

Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE, 202-682-9555

M - This sprawling "people-watching" paradise of attractive multi-level indoor and outdoor cafes "tries to please everyone" with its encyclopedic menu but "does little well"; -- still, it's a "great spot for out-of-towners" -- where else can you get a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and spot a Senator at the same time?

Cuisine: American (Traditional).

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Brunch

Dining Alone

Late Late (12 A.M.)

Outdoor Dining (sidewalk, terrace)

Validated Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

People-Watching

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (brunch, lunch, dinner)

Takeout

Wheelchair Access

Young Children

F D S C |
15 14 15 \$17 |

American Cafe /S

Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE, 202-682-0937

U - Considered a "basic convenience", these cheery commissaries combine handy habitats, moderate prices, long hours and their "famous slow service" with healthy salads, sandwiches, light entrees and abundant desserts; utilitarian, if "uninspired", AC's formula "works best for families with kids."

Cuisine: American (Traditional).

Features:

Breakfast

Wheelchair Access

Young Children (Children's menu)

Other Locations:



227 Massachusetts Ave., NE (2nd St.), 202-547-8500 /S



1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (13th & F Sts.), 202-626-0770 /S



1701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (bet. 17th & 18th Sts.), 202-833-3434

F D S C |
15 14 15 \$17 |

American Cafe /S

227 Massachusetts Ave., NE (2nd St.), 202-547-8500

U - Considered a "basic convenience", these cheery commissaries combine handy habitats, moderate prices, long hours and their "famous slow service" with healthy salads, sandwiches, light entrees and abundant desserts; utilitarian, if "uninspired", AC's formula "works best for families with kids."

Cuisine: American (Traditional).

Features:

Breakfast

Wheelchair Access

Young Children (Children's menu)

Other Locations:



Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE, 202-682-0937 /S



1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (13th & F Sts.), 202-626-0770 /S



1701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (bet. 17th & 18th Sts.), 202-833-3434

F D S C |
15 14 15 \$17 |

American Cafe /S

1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (13th & F Sts.), 202-626-0770

U - Considered a "basic convenience", these cheery commissaries combine handy habitats, moderate prices, long hours and their "famous slow service" with healthy salads, sandwiches, light entrees and abundant desserts; utilitarian, if "uninspired", AC's formula "works best for families with kids."

Cuisine: American (Traditional).

Features:

Breakfast

Wheelchair Access

Young Children (Children's menu)

Other Locations:



Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE, 202-682-0937 /S



227 Massachusetts Ave., NE (2nd St.), 202-547-8500 /S



1701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (bet. 17th & 18th Sts.), 202-833-3434

F D S C |
15 14 15 \$17 |

American Cafe

1701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (bet. 17th & 18th Sts.), 202-833-3434

U - Considered a "basic convenience", these cheery commissaries combine handy habitats, moderate prices, long hours and their "famous slow service" with healthy salads, sandwiches, light entrees and abundant desserts; utilitarian, if "uninspired", AC's formula "works best for families with kids."

Cuisine: American (Traditional).

Features:

Breakfast

Wheelchair Access

Young Children (Children's menu)

Other Locations:



Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE, 202-682-0937 [/S](#)



227 Massachusetts Ave., NE (2nd St.), 202-547-8500 [/S](#)



1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (13th & F Sts.), 202-626-0770 [/S](#)

F D S C |
24 24 20 \$43 |

BICE /S

601 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (entrance on Indiana Ave.), 202-638-2423

U - This Milanese import, our *Survey's* No. 3 Italian, has been wowing the "high rollers", power brokers and people watchers, ever since it opened its splendid Downtown digs; by most accounts, the skillfully prepared, state-of-the-art pastas, risottos and main courses are simply "wonderful"; however, some warn that "arrogance" may have replaced the "individual attention" that was a key to its initial success; "food from Milan, attitude from NYC" -- it's part of a burgeoning national chain.

Cuisine: Italian, Italian (Northern).

Features:

Business Meetings

Caters

Dessert and Ice Cream

"In" Places

Outdoor Dining (terrace)

Valet Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

People-Watching

Power Scenes

Sunday Dining (dinner)

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Wheelchair Access

Winning Wine List

F D S C |
16 5 13 \$13 |

Big Wong L S

728 7th St., NW (H St.), 202-638-6101

M - Dirt cheap -- and justifiably so considering the minimal service and constant "battles with the Board of Health" at its prior H Street location (reflected in above ratings), the Chinatown site is one of the "few places for dim sum within lunching distance of the Hill"; it stays open until 2 AM and if it follows form, on its good days delivers standout dumplings, baked salt shrimp and "variety" meats; the Virginia spot could use more "Chinatown flavor."

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Late Late (2 A.M.)

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

F D S C |
-- -- -- M |

Bistro Le Monde /S

223 Pennsylvania Ave., SE (bet. 2nd & 3rd Sts.), 202-544-4153

Look for lots of political action at this stylish Capitol Hill French Bistro downstairs from Le Manoir (same owners, different kitchens); all-day dining on Gallic grazing classics like croque monsieur, salades and simple plats should prove popular with the legislative staffers and lobbyists who jammed the place when it was Jenkins Hill.

Cuisine: French Bistro.

Features:

Business Meetings

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

F D S C |
22 24 22 \$31 |

BOMBAY CLUB /S

815 Connecticut Ave., NW (bet. H & I Sts.), 202-659-3727

U - So seductive is the princely treatment and genteel, "irresistibly politically incorrect" elegance of this British Empire "officers club" in Downtown DC, that its subtly spiced, "consistently excellent" Indian food doesn't always get the recognition it deserves; "private and romantic, yet great for people-watching", it's just steps from the White House.

Cuisine: Indian.

Features:

Brunch
Business Meetings
Caters
Jacket/Tie Required
Outdoor Dining (sidewalk)
Valet Parking (evening)
Parties
Power Scenes
Prix Fixe Menu
Quiet Conversation
Romantic
Sunday Dining (brunch, dinner)
Takeout
Visitors on Expense Accounts
Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
22 20 21 \$26 |

Bombay Palace /S

1835 K St., NW (19th St.), 202-331-0111

M - This outpost of a worldwide Indian chain is sometimes confused with the nearby Bombay Club, but devotees of its "earthy", generously portioned curries, "great butter chicken" and weekend bargain buffet brunch are happy to "sacrifice a little atmosphere for a better price", calling this "a great second place."

Cuisine: Indian.

Features:

Brunch

Caters

Validated Parking (evening)

Parties & Private Rooms

Prix Fixe Menu

Sunday Dining (brunch, dinner)

Takeout

F D S C |
16 12 16 \$18 |

Cafe Mozart /S

1331 H St., NW (bet. 13th & 14th Sts.), 202-347-5732

M - Downtown DC's German standard bearer is on the mark when you crave wursts, schnitzels, rich Viennese desserts and "unusual" items such as "headcheese, smoked fish" and don't mind being "packed like herrings" in a "no-nonsense", back-of-a-deli atmosphere; best for lunch -- you'll need the rest of the day to digest it; at night, the lights dim and robust music fills the air.

Cuisine: German.

Features:

Breakfast

Entertainment (piano; varies)

Validated Parking

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Takeout

Wheelchair Access

Winning Wine List

F D S C |
19 22 19 \$37 |

Celadon /S

JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (bet. 13th & 14th Sts.), 202-393-0361

U - For that off-the-record business lunch, this serene Downtown hostelry offers privacy plus a bargain prix fixe (\$14.95) of undemanding French-Asian choices that won't blow either your expense account or cholesterol count (or distract from your pitch) -- and "you can always get a table"; except for pre-theater (\$19.95), dinner is pricey.

Cuisine: French Contemporary, SE Asian.

Features:

Buffet Served (lunch)
Business Meetings
Caters
Hotel Dining (JW Marriott Hotel)
Jacket/Tie Required
Valet Parking
Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu
Prix Fixe Menu
Quiet Conversation
Sunday Dining (dinner)
Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
19 14 16 \$18 |

China Inn /L S

631 H St., NW (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.), 202-842-0909

M - Improved ratings suggest that this Chinatown veteran has regained the ground it lost after a renovation replaced its snug ambiance with "too many mirrors"; loyalists swear by the "honest Cantonese cooking" -- "noncreative, just good"; dissenters dub it Chinese for "Midwesterners...frozen in time"; "service varies."

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Late Late (1 A.M.)

Parties & Private Rooms

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
20 20 20 \$34 |

Dominique's /S

1900 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (20th St.), 202-452-1126

M - Slipping slightly, this is still one of the most popular choices for "great value" pre- and post-Kennedy Center dining or entertaining out-of-towners; ignore the gimmicks at this legendary French bistro (alligator and rattlesnake on the menu), go for the solid standbys and soufflés that always impress; if not what it was, what is?

Cuisine: French Bistro, French Classic.

Features:

Business Meetings

Fireplaces

"In" Places

Jacket/Tie Required

Valet Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

People-Watching

Power Scenes

Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu

Prix Fixe Menu

Teenagers & Other Youthful Spirits

Winning Wine List

F D S C |
15 17 17 \$30 |

Duke Zeibert's /S

1050 Connecticut Ave., NW (L St.), 202-466-3730

U - This Downtown "people-know-people" place is a sprawling men's club where "DC natives" lubricate the wheels of business and politics; "a fun place, if Duke knows you, and seats you right" and if you "order defensively" from the macho menu, i.e., matzo ball soup and crab cakes; if the place is passé, as some surveyors suggest, how come 537 reviewers ate there last year?

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Deli, Seafood, Steakhouses.

Features:

Business Meetings

Caters

"In" Places

Jacket/Tie Required

Outdoor Dining (terrace)

Valet Parking (evening)

Parties & Private Rooms

People-Watching

Power Scenes

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (dinner)

Takeout

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
19 18 19 \$25 |

Foggy Bottom Cafe /S

River Inn, 924 25th St., NW (bet I & K Sts.), 202-338-8707

U - Kennedy Center convenience, a sense of seclusion and heavenly chocolate cake -- for many theater-goers, this "sweet" spot in Foggy Bottom is "always part of the evening"; the menu may be nothing exceptional, but there are enough good, light appetizers and sandwiches for a pleasant bite, "an excellent steak" and good-natured servers; try it for a "working lunch", "pensive" breakfast or pre-matinee Sunday brunch.

Cuisine: American (Traditional).

Features:

Brunch

Delivery

Dessert and Ice Cream

Hotel Dining (River Inn)

Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (brunch, lunch, dinner)

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
20 8 15 \$17 |

Full Kee /L S

509 H St., NW (bet. 5th & 6th Sts.), 202-371-2233

U - Being "wall to wall on weekends with Chinese customers" is a good sign that the Hong Kong-style food at these Wheaton and Chinatown sisters is fresh, authentic and cheap; try the "beautiful" noodle soups and delicious specials or ask for nonmenu items like the squid and sour cabbage; the consensus says "no decor", "sloppy service" but "excellent food."

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Late Late (2 A.M.)

Parking Lot

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
14 17 14 \$25 |

Gangplank /S

600 Water St., SW (7th St. & Maine Ave.), 202-554-5000

M - It's "delightful" to sit upstairs on this wharfside mariner watching the channel lights and the boats; though you may "remember the view" longer "than the food", the seafood and service are "much improved" since new management hired a real chef and "sensitized" the crew; try it for a pre-Arena Stage dinner or brunch.

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Seafood.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Brunch

Delivery

Entertainment (D.J.)

Fireplaces

Outdoor Dining (terrace, waterside)

Validated Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

Saturday Lunch

Senior Appeal

Sunday Dining (brunch, dinner)

Takeout

F D S C |
20 14 21 \$25 |

Ginza's

1009 21st St., NW (bet. K & L Sts.), 202-833-1244

U - "Easily, the best Japanese in DC" as the patronage of Japanese diplomats and businessmen attests; "solid, unpretentious", the focus is on the freshest fish, carefully prepared earthy casseroles and the kind of first-class service that Occidentals yen for.

Cuisine: Japanese.

Features:

Business Meetings

Caters

Parties & Private Rooms

Takeout

Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
16 21 17 \$16 |

Hard Rock Cafe /S

999 E St., NW (10th St.), 202-737-ROCK

U - Restaurantland may be an obligatory tour stop with a perpetual pre-teen party going full tilt, but "give it credit for decent food and fun" -- the former featuring burgers, BBQ and shakes; the latter, a perky staff ("disappointed if they don't hop on the tables and start dancing"), and a double life as a rock 'n' roll museum; P.S. buying a T-shirt on the way out is de rigueur -- otherwise you're in deep de-regard with the kids.

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Bar-B-Q, Hamburgers.

Features:

Late Late (12 A.M.)

Offbeat

Validated Parking, Discount Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Takeout

Teenagers & Other Youthful Spirits

Wheelchair Access

Young Children

F D S C |
22 26 24 \$40 |

Hay-Adams Dining Rooms /S

Hay-Adams Hotel, 1 Lafayette Sq., NW (16th & H Sts.), 202-638-6600

U - Renowned for the ultimate power breakfast served within sight of the White House, this "charming traditional" hostelry is equally adept at impressive lunches and dinners; it has "ambiance supreme", is "wonderfully romantic", and serves "excellent" American and Continental food plus the "most elegant high tea in town"; if the "old-world service and style" seem a bit "snooty, isn't that why you're there?"

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Continental.

Features:

Business Meetings

Fireplaces

Hotel Dining (Hay-Adams Hotel)

"In" Places

Jacket/Tie Required

People-Watching

Power Scenes

Quiet Conversation

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Teas

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Winning Wine List

F D S C |
-- -- -- M |

Head's /L S

400 First St., SE (D St.), 202-546-4545

Settling into Capitol Hill's most "perfectly located" restaurant space, an art deco bistro formerly occupied by Anton's Loyal Opposition, this BBQ purveyor provokes partisan ire: its Alabama-style pig (chopped, with sauce on the side), draws squeals from the Carolina, Tennessee and Texas delegations -- when you mix politics and BBQ you're playing with fire.

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Bar-B-Q.

Features:

Caters

Outdoor Dining (sidewalk)

Parties & Private Rooms

Power Scenes

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Takeout

F D S C |
12 14 13 \$22 |

Hogate's /S

800 Water St., SW (9th St. & Maine Ave.), 202-484-6300

U - Most local traffic to this massive fish factory is strictly for drinks, jazz and the spectacular Potomac view; office parties are also popular (they "actually do better with large groups"), ditto for the rum buns at brunch; otherwise this is a favorite target: "plumbing the depths of seafood", "run-down", even "tourists deserve better."

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Seafood.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Brunch

Outdoor Dining (terrace, waterside)

Parking Lot

Parties & Private Rooms

Prix Fixe Menu

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (brunch, dinner)

Takeout

Wheelchair Access

Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
18 14 17 \$18 |

House of Hunan

1900 K St., NW (19th St.), 202-293-9111

M - For years this K Street "pioneer" set the standard for orange beef and other Hunan specialties; although there's been "deterioration" in quality and appearance, it's still a "solid bet" for a "moderately priced" Downtown lunch; stop by the next time you feel nostalgic -- the waiters are as brusque as ever and the "maitre d' has a great memory for old clients."

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Parties & Private Rooms
Saturday Lunch
Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
21 16 19 \$18 |

Hunan Chinatown /S

624 H St., NW (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.), 202-783-5858

U - Acclaimed as Chinatown's best, this "presentable", "clean white linen" spot "makes you feel like a visiting dignitary" and feeds you royally too; there's "nothing fancy", mind you, but "no mistakes", and every dish is distinctive; groups are handled with panache.

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Parking Lot
Saturday Lunch
Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

F D S C |
15 12 17 \$15 |

Hunan on Capitol Hill /S

201 D St., NE (2nd St.), 202-544-0102

M - "Decent Chinese food -- for the Hill", "\$5.95 lunch specials", "efficient" and "friendly atmosphere for the gang" are the best that can be said for this over-the-Hilltopper whose House-side corner location keeps it in business.

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Delivery

Parties & Private Rooms

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

F D S C |
27 24 26 \$69 |

JEAN-LOUIS

Watergate Hotel, 2650 Virginia Ave., NW (New Hampshire Ave.), 202-298-4488

U - A dinner prepared by Jean-Louis Palladin is "an experience you won't forget"; frequent diners are amazed by his "never ending originality" and an ambiance so intimate and attentive that "you feel like a house-guest" in his Watergate dining room; it is well "worth rearranging your life" to take advantage of his \$43 pre-theater dinner (5:30-6:30 seating), a "must-splurge bargain" for food and service that at other times costs much more.

Cuisine: French Contemporary.

Features:

Business Meetings

Caters

Hotel Dining (Watergate Hotel)

Jacket/Tie Required

Valet Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

Power Scenes

Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu

Prix Fixe Menu

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Wheelchair Access

Winning Wine List

F D S C |
19 15 17 \$27 |

Jonah's* /S

Hyatt Regency Hotel, 400 New Jersey Ave., NW (bet. D & E Sts.), 202-737-1234

M - This Capitol Hill spot is unaccountably uncrowded given its strategic Senate side situation, solid seafood-oriented cuisine, big portions and modest prices; reviewers recommend the "great pumpernickel raisin bread" and sushi (but not at the same meal); the underwater ambiance and spotty service hold it back.

Cuisine: Seafood.

Features:

Business Meetings

Hotel Dining (Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill)

Valet Parking (evening)

Sunday Dining (dinner)

F D S C |
23 20 21 \$36 |

La Brasserie /S

239 Massachusetts Ave., NE (bet. 2nd & 3rd Sts.), 202-546-6066, 202-546-9154

M - This "pricey" Capitol Hill brasserie offers some of the best senator spotting in town (even at times when the senator may not want to be spotted); its sun-drenched sidewalk terrace, and its townhouse interior is loaded with "charm de trop"; the kitchen, headed by chef Gaby Abouin, can "excel", but isn't always reliable, and the departure of Raymond Campet (former co-owner/maitre d') is unsettling.

Cuisine: French Bistro.

Features:

Breakfast
Brunch
Business Meetings
Caters
Delivery
Fireplaces
Health/Spa Menu
"In" Places
Outdoor Dining (sidewalk)
Validated Parking, Valet Parking
Parties & Private Rooms
People-Watching
Power Scenes
Prix Fixe Menu
Romantic
Saturday Lunch
Sunday Dining (brunch, lunch, dinner)
Takeout
Winning Wine List

F D S C |
24 19 22 \$32 |

LA COLLINE

400 N. Capitol St., NW (bet. D & E Sts.), 202-737-0400

U - The premier Capitol Hill French bistro is one of those places where lobbyists "pay one bill to get another passed"; it's "fast and cheap" (\$17.50 for a first-rate fixed-price dinner), while offering "smooth-as-silk" service" and "some of the best cooking in town"; typical comments include: "only place Senate staff will lunch", "lovely" private parties, "lobbyist dream"; its only blemish is the "Holiday Inn decor"; breakfast from 6 AM.

Cuisine: French Bistro, French Classic.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes
Breakfast
Health/Spa Menu
"In" Places
Outdoor Dining (sidewalk)
Validated Parking (evening)
Parties & Private Rooms
People-Watching
Power Scenes
Prix Fixe Menu
Takeout
Visitors on Expense Accounts
Wheelchair Access
Winning Wine List

F D S C |
21 19 20 \$35 |

La Maree

1919 I St., NW (bet. 19th & 20th Sts.), 202-659-4447

M - Despite its seductive appearance, a sure hand with seafood and relaxing milieu, this "very romantic" French restaurant doesn't reach the front ranks; it's almost always "better than expected", yet is thought of mainly as a "back-up" for a low-profile "executive lunch" or for "excellent buy" pre-Kennedy Center meals.

Cuisine: French Classic, Seafood.

Features:

Jacket/Tie Required
Validated Parking (evening)
Parties & Private Rooms
Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu
Prix Fixe Menu
Romantic

F D S C |
22 17 16 \$13 |

Le Bon Cafe /S

210 2nd St., SE (bet. Pennsylvania Ave. & C St., SE), 202-547-7200

U - Filling a "desperate need" on Capitol Hill, this cafe "treats coffee with deep respect"; it also has excellent toasted baguettes at breakfast, freshly made sandwiches on crusty Uptown Bakery bread, terrific salads, pastries and indoor and outdoor seating with a cosmopolitan air, this cute and affordable cafe would be even bonnier if it "were bigger" and a little less "smug."

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Coffee Houses.

Features:

Breakfast

Caters

Outdoor Dining (sidewalk)

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch)

Takeout

Teas

F D S C |
23 20 22 \$30 |

Le Mistral

223 Pennsylvania Ave., SE (bet. 2nd & 3rd Sts.), 202-543-7747

U - The bistro French food at this high-powered House-side hangout is so tasty that "lobbyists fight to take" committee staffers here; tables in the sunlit front room or by the lovely fireplace are so hard to get that most diners find themselves in the barrackslike back room or watching the action from the narrow balcony -- still, we hear few complaints: "great private parties", "very decent value."

Cuisine: French Bistro, French Classic.

Features:

Business Meetings

Fireplaces

Parking Lot, Valet Parking (evening)

Parties & Private Rooms

Power Scenes

Prix Fixe Menu

Takeout

F D S C
20 20 20 \$32 |

Le Rivage /S

1000 Water St., SW (Maine Ave. & 9th St.), 202-488-8111

U - Many consider this "the only place to eat before Arena Stage"; it's also a place that understands the nexus between food and romance, fostering the latter with seafood à la français and "plush surroundings" indoors plus outdoor dining (with marina views); be sure to leave plenty of time for curtain calls.

Cuisine: French Classic.

Features:

Outdoor Dining (terrace, waterside)

Valet Parking

Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu

Prix Fixe Menu

Sunday Dining (dinner)

F D S C |
22 22 22 \$43 |

MAISON BLANCHE

1725 F St., NW (bet. 17th & 18th Sts.), 202-842-0070

U - At this "stately" grande dame of diplomacy and international finance, friendly nods foreshadow important events and out-of-town guests are always impressed; the outstanding French cuisine (creative yet rooted in tradition) is elegantly presented in a soothing atmosphere though a few find it "stuffy" and "dated"; take advantage of its pre-theater dinner (\$24.95).

Cuisine: French Classic.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes
Business Meetings
Jacket/Tie Required
Parking Lot, Valet Parking
Parties & Private Rooms
People-Watching
Power Scenes
Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu
Prix Fixe Menu
Visitors on Expense Accounts
Wheelchair Access
Winning Wine List

F D S C |
17 16 16 \$24 |

Metro Center Grille /S

Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, 775 12th St., NW (H St.), 202-737-2200

U - Given its accessibility to the Convention Center, plus spacious dining room and "clean-tasting", Contemporary Mediterranean-influenced food at equally refreshing prices, one wonders why this grill isn't more popular -- the problems seem to center on a "dispiriting atmosphere" and "indifferent service."

Cuisine: American (Contemporary).

Features:

Business Meetings
Hotel Dining (Holiday Inn Crown Plaza)
Valet Parking
Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu
Prix Fixe Menu
Saturday Lunch
Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)
Takeout
Wheelchair Access
Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
16 16 17 \$27 |

Monocle, The

107 D St., NE (1st St.), 202-546-4488

U - "Politics is the daily special" at this Senate-side "gentlemen's club" where "Senators cut deals" while tourists watch the wheels of government turn; this place is so "in", it's rumored to have a "private line to the Senate cloakroom"; it also has decent -- if "boring" -- American food (if anyone cares) and a "stuffy" attitude "just like the Senate staff."

Cuisine: American (Traditional).

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Business Meetings

Fireplaces

"In" Places

Late Late (12 A.M.)

Valet Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

People-Watching

Power Scenes

Sunday Dining (dinner)

Takeout

Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
23 24 23 \$37 |

Mr. K's /S

2121 K St., NW (bet 21st & 22nd Sts.), 202-331-8868

M - This handsome, "upper-end" K Streeter charges an "emperor's ransom" for refined Chinese food in an elegant environment; despite the steep tab, many consider it "great value for a prestige restaurant" that is guaranteed to impress.

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Business Meetings

Jacket/Tie Required

Valet Parking (evening)

Parties & Private Rooms

People-Watching

Power Scenes

Quiet Conversation

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
20 12 18 \$19 |

Mr. Yung's /S

740 6th St., NW (bet. G & H Sts.), 202-628-1098

U - "One of Chinatown's best", this restaurant is known for its dim sum by westerners who often overlook the rest of its "very good" Cantonese menu; set in a simple yet attractive storefront, it boasts a staff that's helpful and adept -- ask them about those dishes the Chinese customers are eating that "look so good", or try one of the noodle soups.

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Parties & Private Rooms

Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

F D S C |
20 20 19 \$28 |

Notte Luna /L S

809 15th St., NW (bet. H & I Sts.), 202-408-9500

M - The glowing neon, high spirits and "incredible decibels" at this "vibrant" Cal-Ital youngster have brought a "dreary" Downtown area to life; it's best enjoyed at the sidewalk cafe where "smart"-looking suits, theatergoers and Smithsonian tourists dig into pizzas, pastas, mesquite grills and daily specials; disgruntled diners look past the glitz at food that's "just so-so", service, "ho-hum" with "lots of upscale hype."

Cuisine: Italian, Pizzerias.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes
Delivery
Entertainment (jazz)
Outdoor Dining (sidewalk)
Valet Parking, Discount Parking (evening)
Parties & Private Rooms
People-Watching
Sunday Dining (dinner)
Takeout
Teenagers & Other Youthful Spirits
Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
22 23 21 \$35 |

OCCIDENTAL GRILL / L S

The Willard Complex (Pennsylvania Ave. & 14th St.), NW, 202-783-1475

U - A successful downscaling at this "very Washington" Pennsylvania Avenue address (by collapsing the nouveau, upstairs restaurant into the clubby downstairs grill room), capitalized on the Grill's best features -- its "power atmosphere" and its relaxed menu featuring sandwiches, salads and regional American entrees; our surveyors report that the Grill "reduced prices, not quality", and that the celebs come in droves; still, some say it's "like eating in a law office."

Cuisine: American (Traditional), American (Contemporary), Hamburgers.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes
Business Meetings
Caters
Dining Alone
Health/Spa Menu
Validated Parking, Valet Parking
Parties & Private Rooms
People-Watching
Power Scenes
Saturday Lunch
Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)
Takeout
Visitors on Expense Accounts
Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
18 21 18 \$26 |

Old Ebbitt Grill /L S

675 15th St., NW (bet. F & G Sts.), 202-347-4801

M - "Very DC" and very popular, this "halls of power" handsome brasserie, with "great back bar action" and "politico" watching, has a prime Downtown location ("old hangout for Treasury and White House", also near the Mall and the National Theater), and the ability to accommodate almost any dining taste and proves "reliable, when no other restaurant fits"; these attributes keep it packed from breakfast on; foodwise, it "does what i t does (pub-fare plus) well, not great"; gripes focus on waits, even with reservations, and lunchtime lags.

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Bar-B-Q, Hamburgers.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Breakfast

Brunch

Business Meetings

Dining Alone

Late Late (12 A.M.)

Validated Parking, Valet Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

People-Watching

Pubs

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (brunch, dinner)

Takeout

Teenagers & Other Youthful Spirits

F D S C |
19 13 16 \$16 |

Pan Asian Noodles & Grill /S

1018 Vermont Ave., NW (bet. 14th & 15th Sts.), 202-783-8899

U - You can "eat yourself silly for not very much" at these quick and easy noodle shops; metro convenient at Dupont Circle and McPherson Square, you get "oodles of noodles" with a multi-Asian twist, plus seafood soups and simple grills in neon and lacquer storefronts; "hot stuff in a low key."

Cuisine: SE Asian, Thai.

Features:

Parties & Private Rooms

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (dinner)

F D S C |
20 21 19 \$27 |

Peasant Restaurant and Bar, The /S

Market Sq., 801 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, 202-638-2140

U - Prized as a shopper's lunch spot in Mazza Gallery, the new Market Square Peasant functions as a "lovely, bright", lawyers' lunchtime "staple, especially outside", and as part of "the Pennsylvania Avenue night scene"; salads, sandwiches, pastas and light entrees appear on their menus, but daunting desserts and long waits at Chevy Chase are most remembered.

Cuisine: American (Traditional), American (Contemporary).

F D S C |
18 7 13 \$10 |

Philadelphia Mike's /S

605 12th St., NW (F St.), 202-737-5326

M - If you didn't grow up in Philly, you may not share a native's enthusiasm for its namesteak, Philadelphia cheesesteak sandwich -- a "greasy" concoction of grilled beef, onions, pickled peppers and cheese on a soft roll that's guaranteed to sink your digestion for a week; it's a "cheap" lunch, but too downmarket for many tastes.

Cuisine: American (Traditional).

Features:

Delivery

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

F D S C |
14 15 14 \$22 |

Phillips Flagship /S

900 Water St., SW (9th St.), 202-488-8495

M - Lured by harborside locations, tourists swarm to these mass-market fisheries where "horrendous" waits are the prelude to seafood platters that most find "great" -- if quantity counts; cheers for the lunchtime buffet (DC) and the sing-a-long piano (at Harborplace in Baltimore); service staff should be used as fish bait.

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Seafood.

Features:

Brunch
Outdoor Dining (terrace)
Discount Parking
Parties & Private Rooms
Prix Fixe Menu
Saturday Lunch
Sunday Dining (brunch, lunch, dinner)
Takeout
Wheelchair Access
Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
15 15 15 \$22 |

Pier 7 /S

Channel Inn, 650 Water St., SW (7th St. & Maine Ave., SW), 202-554-2500

M - DC natives don't go to the scenic fish factories lining the SW waterfront for their food; however, "on a good day" (more often at lunch), this one can turn out very credible, fairly priced fish or a decent brunch; easy access from Arena Stage, Capitol Hill, and a slew of federal agencies plus loads of tourists keep this one humming; critics blast it as a "tourist trap" with "terrible food", a "factory atmosphere" and "poor service."

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Seafood.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes
Business Meetings
Entertainment (jazz)
Hotel Dining (Channel Inn)
Outdoor Dining (terrace, waterside)
Validated Parking
Parties & Private Rooms
People-Watching
Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu
Prix Fixe Menu
Saturday Lunch
Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)
Takeout
Wheelchair Access
Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
23 20 21 \$33 |

Place on K Street, The

1835 K St., NW (bet. 18th & 19th Sts.), 202-466-2022

U - Lowering prices and simplifying the menu (signaled by the informal new name), revived Jean-Pierre, the Gallic war-horse that serviced an affluent K Street clientele in the '80s; veteran restaurateur Jean Michel Farret has his finger on the '90s pulse: "more affordable", "more pleasant", "great service"; yet there's always a dissenter: JP "in disguise and a little cheaper."

Cuisine: French Bistro, French Classic.

Features:

Business Meetings

Parties & Private Rooms

F D S C |
22 22 24 \$38 |

Powerscourt

Phoenix Park Hotel, 520 N. Capitol St., NW (Massachusetts Ave.), 202-737-3776

U - "Gaelic is spoken", but the lingua franca of "power and politics" pervades this "lace curtain" Irish dining room near the Capitol; delicious salmon, seafood and lamb is presented with "attentiveness unparalleled"; at dinner, its pastel intimacy encourages the exchange of confidences, romantic and otherwise.

Cuisine: Continental.

Features:

Business Meetings

Hotel Dining (Phoenix Park Hotel)

"In" Places

Valet Parking, Discount Parking

Power Scenes

Takeout

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
19 16 19 \$33 |

Prime Plus Grill

727 15th St., NW (bet. H St. & New York Ave.), 202-783-0166

M - With a hard-to-beat Downtown location and attractive, if compact, modern surroundings, it's surprising that this "polished" Contemporary Continental doesn't get more attention; cordial, accomplished, it does a "terrific pasta and scallops" and some very nice things with veal and chicken; yet it can also be "hit or miss"; closed weekends.

Cuisine: American (Traditional), French Classic.

Features:

Delivery

Takeout

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
26 25 24 \$42 |

PRIME RIB, THE

2020 K St., NW (bet. 20th & 21st Sts.), 202-466-8811

U - Hundreds of heavy-hitters and hearty eaters say this "dark, grand", "tried-and-true", "clubby" K Street mainstay has the "best beef" and "the freshest seafood" in town; it remains the ultimate "place for heavy arm-twisting", is great to impress clients and is appreciated for black lacquer decor ("the older you are, the better the darkness seems"); the unconverted call it "Baltimore South" or "NY in DC."

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Seafood, Steakhouses.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes
Business Meetings
Entertainment (piano/bassist)
"In" Places
Jacket/Tie Required
Valet Parking (evening)
People-Watching
Power Scenes
Romantic
Visitors on Expense Accounts
Wheelchair Access
Winning Wine List

F D S C |
21 20 19 \$32 |

Primi Piatti /S

2013 I St., NW (bet. 20th & 21st Sts.), 202-223-3600

M - "A touch of Milan", this amalgam of "glitz, sizzle", "first-class Italian food", an "upbeat clientele" and "New York rude" waiters wins both fans and foes, but mostly the former, thus it's "crowded and noisy"; eating outside on a spring evening is one way to escape the din; consider the splendid back room for a party.

Cuisine: Italian, Pizzerias.

Features:

Entertainment (opera)

Health/Spa Menu

Valet Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

Sunday Dining (dinner)

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
22 26 19 \$39 |

Red Sage /S

605 14th St., NW (F St.), 202-638-4444

U - "Lights, camera, action -- this place is hot"; one of America's most publicized chefs, Mark Miller, spent mega bucks creating an MGM-quality stage set for his Southwestern food, featuring "innovative decor" and incredible private rooms; as for the standout food, it's a "wonderful departure" from everything else in town, usually delicious and, along with service, getting better everyday; the only real problem is getting through on the phone.

Cuisine: Southwestern.

Features:

Business Meetings

Dining Alone

Fireplaces

Health/Spa Menu

"In" Places

Offbeat

Discount Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

Sunday Dining (dinner)

Takeout

Teenagers & Other Youthful Spirits

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
17 13 17 \$11 |

Reeves Restaurant and Bakery

1306 G St., NW (bet. 13th & 14th Sts.), 202-628-6350

M - Washingtonians are "glad it's back", although most confess that their "memory" of the original homespun American lunch counter and Downtown bakery (demolished by developers) is more pleasing than the "resurrection"; go for its legendary doughnuts, strawberry pie, and sentimental Southern breakfasts; the wimpy sandwiches and service -- along with the prices -- are "not what it used to be."

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Coffee Shops/Diners, Hamburgers.

Features:

Breakfast

Dessert and Ice Cream

Saturday Lunch

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
21 25 22 \$36 |

Riverview* /S

Watergate Hotel, 2650 Virginia Ave., NW (New Hampshire Ave.), 202-298-4455

M - This cool, refined Watergate dining room offers lovely Potomac views; the Mediterranean-influenced cuisine is creative and attractively presented but, unless you're taking advantage of its well-priced pre-Kennedy Center prix fixe dinner, cognoscenti counsel "add a few bucks and go to Jean-Louis" (in the same hotel.)

Cuisine: American (Contemporary).

Features:

Brunch
Business Meetings
Entertainment (piano)
Health/Spa Menu
Hotel Dining (Watergate Hotel)
Jacket/Tie Required
Outdoor Dining (waterside)
Valet Parking
Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu
Prix Fixe Menu
Quiet Conversation
Saturday Lunch
Sunday Dining (brunch, lunch, dinner)

F D S C |
22 24 23 \$35 |

701 /L S

701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (7th St.), 202-393-0701

U - Savvy surveyors can't say enough nice things about this spacious, smooth-running Contemporary American Downtowner: "one visit and I had found a new friend, more visits proved it", a "new star", "can't go wrong with just about any selection", "easily the most creative best value in DC"; "love it for a business lunch" "near the Capitol" or "between museums"; the caviar, vodka and champagne bar has the "best jazz pianist in DC."

Cuisine: American (Contemporary).

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes
Brunch
Business Meetings
Entertainment (piano/jazz)
Health/Spa Menu
Outdoor Dining (terrace)
Valet Parking
Parties & Private Rooms
People-Watching
Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu
Prix Fixe Menu
Quiet Conversation
Romantic
Sunday Dining (brunch, lunch, dinner)
Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
19 22 17 \$28 |

Sfuzzi /S

Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE, 202-842-4141

M - This high-volume, Texas-born Italian in Union Station is a big success; its strong points are a spirited atmosphere, elaborate "pasta combos", wonderful frozen bellinis and people-watching (it's too loud to talk); negatives are "over-eager salesmanship" supplanting service and "prices stiffer than the drinks."

Cuisine: Italian, Pizzerias.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Brunch

Business Meetings

Jacket/Tie Required

Validated Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

People-Watching

Prix Fixe Menu

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (brunch, dinner)

Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
20 11 16 \$18 |

Szechuan /S

615 I St., NW (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.), 202-393-0130

M - Many reviewers feel this Szechuan standby has slipped so far that it's no longer worth considering; yet the above ratings indicate that it's still "keeping up with the competition" for those willing to close their eyes to "shabby decor", "filthy carpets" and don't ask about the kitchen.

Cuisine: Chinese.

Features:

Delivery

Parking Lot

Parties & Private Rooms

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

F D S C |
24 26 24 \$44 |

TABERNA DEL ALABARDERO

1776 I St., NW (18th St.), 202-429-2200

M - "World-class", this Spaniard gets high marks in all departments, as possibly the "prettiest restaurant in DC", with seafood paella and other rustic and refined dishes that are a revelation to those accustomed to Latino imitations; it also has excellent service; a small minority don't appreciate its Iberian classicism ("heavy meal") or its highfalutin prices.

Cuisine: Spanish.

Features:

Business Meetings

Jacket/Tie Required

Validated Parking

Parties & Private Rooms

Visitors on Expense Accounts

Wheelchair Access

Winning Wine List

F D S C |
15 15 15 \$15 |

T.G.I. Friday's /L S

2100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (21st St.), 202-872-4344

M - These frenetic family saloons virtually "invented kid-friendly" dining, "frivolous drinks" and Friday night singles scenes; other chain concepts are their "formula" bar fare, "lively circus" ambiance and "lots of choices" on a menu that may translate as T.G.I. "fried."

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Hamburgers.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Health/Spa Menu

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Wheelchair Access

Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
21 18 20 \$18 |

Thai Kingdom /S

2021 K St., NW (bet. 20th & 21st Sts.), 202-835-1700

U - Even if the Thai food at this obliging K Streeter wasn't "remarkably fresh" and "spiced to perfection", it would be worth listing as an "incredible bargain" lunch alternative to its canopied neighbors (Mr. K's, Prime Rib, Tiberio); it has that "K Street look" with the price tag and takeout convenience of an ethnic eatery.

Cuisine: Thai.

Features:

Validated Parking

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
23 21 21 \$51 |

TIBERIO

1915 K St., NW (bet. 19th & 20th Sts.), 202-452-1915

M - This rose-filled Italian legend is unquestionably "expense-account territory", but whether paying \$34 for a luxurious pasta amounts to "highway robbery" or is simply the price of excellence depends on your seniority and income bracket; few spots in town put on a better show for their clientele, but you'd better have deep pockets; otherwise cross K Street to its scaled-down sister Tullio for "better value and more fun."

Cuisine: Italian, Italian (Northern).

Features:

Business Meetings
Jacket/Tie Required
Valet Parking (evening)
People-Watching
Visitors on Expense Accounts
Wheelchair Access
Winning Wine List

F D S C |
20 16 16 \$20 |

Tony Cheng's Mongolian /S

619-621 H St., NW (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.), 202-842-TONY, 202-371-8669

M - There aren't many places where the customer collaborates with the chef to create a customized meal (by choosing ingredients to be stir-fried or grilled for Mongolian BBQ, or steeped tableside in hot pots); this may not be everyone's idea of dining out, but it can be fun for the right group (i.e. hungry teenagers -- it's all-you-can-eat); the seafood place upstairs has very good dim sum and Sino-seafood dishes brought to the table by smiling, if sometimes uncomprehending, servers.

Cuisine: Bar-B-Q, Chinese.

Features:

Buffet Served (lunch, dinner)

Offbeat

Prix Fixe Menu

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Teenagers & Other Youthful Spirits

Young Children

Other Locations:

Tony Cheng's Seafood



619-621 H St., NW (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.), 202-842-TONY, 202-371-8669

F D S C |
20 16 16 \$20 |

Tony Cheng's Seafood /S

619-621 H St., NW (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.), 202-842-TONY, 202-371-8669

M - There aren't many places where the customer collaborates with the chef to create a customized meal (by choosing ingredients to be stir-fried or grilled for Mongolian BBQ, or steeped tableside in hot pots); this may not be everyone's idea of dining out, but it can be fun for the right group (i.e. hungry teenagers -- it's all-you-can-eat); the seafood place upstairs has very good dim sum and Sino-seafood dishes brought to the table by smiling, if sometimes uncomprehending, servers.

Cuisine: Chinese, Seafood.

Other Locations:

Tony Cheng's Mongolian



619-621 H St., NW (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.), 202-842-TONY, 202-371-8669

F D S C |
16 14 15 \$16 |

Tortilla Coast /S

201 Massachusetts Ave., NE (D St.), 202-546-6768

M - Fueled by the "best margaritas" this side of wherever, Capitol Hill interns are likely to let loose at this postgraduate playpen; in summer, the deafening din spills onto a notably attractive patio; don't worry "if you're too drunk to go anywhere else", it has "good Mexican food."

Cuisine: Mexican/Salvadoran, Southwestern.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Brunch

Delivery

Outdoor Dining (sidewalk)

Parties & Private Rooms

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (brunch, lunch, dinner)

Takeout

Wheelchair Access

Young Children (Children's menu)

F D S C |
17 19 17 \$32 |

Trader Vic's

Capitol Hilton, 16th & K Sts., NW, 202-347-7100

M - Many would consign this Eisenhower-era relic to the Smithsonian, but "you'd be surprised" how many real people regularly revisit this hokey pseudo-tropical paradise; for better or worse, it's an old "favorite" of many who like its rum drinks with funny names and Chinese entrees from the chow mein dynasty; "still fun for what it is or was" -- only the prices are updated.

Cuisine: Chinese, Continental, SE Asian.

Features:

Buffet Served (lunch)

Hotel Dining (Capitol Hilton)

Prix Fixe Menu

F D S C |
19 19 17 \$27 |

Tullio

2020 K St., NW (bet. 20th & 21st Sts.), 202-466-2020

M - The concept is fine -- scaled-down versions of sister Tiberio's Northern Italian pastas, seafood-centered entrees and lots of antipasto nibbles that are "inexpensive for location" (on K Street); what spoils the effort is service at "random" and an inconsistent kitchen; a "good value for lunch" if you strike it lucky, but "on a recent Friday only two tables were occupied."

Cuisine: Italian, Italian (Northern).

Features:

Entertainment (Latin American)

Fireplaces

Jacket/Tie Required

Valet Parking (evening)

Parties & Private Rooms

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
20 19 20 \$29 |

West End Cafe /L S

1 Washington Circle, NW (New Hampshire Ave.), 202-293-5390

U - "Always charming", creative and appropriate for any occasion from a business lunch, pre- or post-Kennedy Center bite, it promises seductive supper or brunch in a sunny greenhouse room; this California-style cafe's menu is also "always changing"; one constant is Burnett Thompson, possibly the best piano player in town.

Cuisine: American (Traditional), American (Contemporary).

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Brunch

Dining Alone

Entertainment (piano/jazz)

Health/Spa Menu

Validated Parking, Valet Parking

Pre-Theater/Early-Bird Menu

Prix Fixe Menu

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (brunch, dinner)

Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
24 28 25 \$49 |

WILLARD ROOM /S

Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (bet. 14th & 15th Sts.), 202-637-7440

U - "Luxury to the max", "totally first class", this opulent turn-of-the-century dining room is "the place to take the British Ambassador" or "have tea with your great-aunt"; also it's "a very, very good choice for a business meeting"; it has "rich classical American dining" and white-glove "pampering for when you need a lift"; if a place that makes people feel like they're in heaven has a flaw, it's being a bit "too formal to relax"; though pricey, it's premium.

Cuisine: American (Contemporary).

Features:

Brunch
Business Meetings
Entertainment (piano)
Hotel Dining (Willard Hotel)
Validated Parking, Valet Parking
People-Watching
Power Scenes
Prix Fixe Menu
Senior Appeal
Sunday Dining (brunch)
Teas
Visitors on Expense Accounts
Wheelchair Access

F D S C |
14 15 15 \$19 |

Wolensky's /S

2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (bet. 20th & 21st Sts.), 202-463-0050

M - George Washington University hangout in the same mall that houses Tower Records with the predictable run of burgers, shakes and salads; "ok for a fast lunch" with the kids or late-night meets; operations under new management get mixed reviews: "improved" vs. "a decline."

Cuisine: American (Traditional), Hamburgers.

Features:

Bar/Singles Scenes

Entertainment (jazz)

Parties & Private Rooms

Pubs

Saturday Lunch

Sunday Dining (lunch, dinner)

Takeout

Wheelchair Access

Young Children (Children's menu)

