

Dining in Los Angeles

AS COMPILED BY MICHAEL "SO HIP
IT HURTS" GENOVESE

Wolfgang Puck claims Los Angeles is the best restaurant city in the world. High praise, in fact, too high. But hyperbole aside, LA truly is a GREAT and amazingly diverse restaurant city, and many of the top restaurants are in the downtown area.

If you have a few hours, I suggest a walk to the Union Station (800 N. Alameda St.) and stroll through the magnificent building, then walk a block north to Olvera Street for some old LA and see the roots of this great city (many shops selling Mexican goods and gifts to bring home to the family), then a short walk to the Italian American Museum (644 N. Main St.) to see what is on exhibit (everything is one or two blocks away from this town). End your adventure at Philippe The Original (1001 N. Alameda St) for old LA. The restaurant dates back to 1908 and is where the French Dip Beef Sandwich was invented! Great diner-type food but you must try the French Dip Beef Sandwich (ask for a double-dip, which means both sides of the bun are dipped in the beef au jus). I always order two sandwiches (try a bit of the hot mustard... which really is hot... and you can take a jar or two home with you).

*"LA truly is a
GREAT restaurant
city"*



Olvera Street



Philippe the Original

Downtown Classics

CASSELL'S

3266 West 6th St. • (213) 480-8668

One of the best burgers in LA, this storefront is always packed at lunchtime with those who like their burgers cooked to order, served with homemade mayonnaise and a remarkable chunky potato salad.

Inexpensive

EL CHOLO

1121 South Western Ave. • (213) 734-2773

LA's oldest Mexican restaurant is famed for its peerless margaritas, nachos, guacamole, and green-corn tamales (served only during the summer). One of the best connections we've got between the old Spanish cooking of California and authentic Mexican cuisine.

Inexpensive

ENGINE CO. NO 28

644 Figueroa St. • (213) 624-6996

This is an American bistro; in other words, a downtown citadel of Boy Food—beef, stews, meatloaf, and the like in a former firehouse full of brass and leather that's one of the busiest businessmen's hangouts in town.

Inexpensive

GRAND CENTRAL MARKET

317 South Broadway

A downtown landmark hosting a variety of food vendors, including Wexler's Deli, Sarita's Pupuseria, Belcampo Meat Co., and La Tostaderia.

LANGER'S

704 South Alvarado St. • (213) 213-8050

Despite a dicey location from MacArthur Park, this is one of our most acclaimed delis; Mimi Sheraton of the New York Times praised the corned-beef sandwiches as the best in the city. And as proof that LA is the great ethnic stew of America, chances are the people eating matzo balls at the table next to yours will be speaking Spanish, Korean, Tagalog, or Japanese.

Inexpensive

ORIGINAL PANTRY CAFE

877 South Figueroa St. • (213) 972-9279

This old style culinary landmark has been serving steaks and breakfast since 1924. There's always a line out front, but fans wait for meals that begin with heavy sourdough and continue through hearty steaks and chops. There's better beef to be had in town, but not at these prices. Open 24 hours.

Inexpensive



Grand Central Market



Langer's

PACIFIC DINING CAR

1310 West 6th St. • (213) 483-6000

Old-school atmosphere.

Expensive.

WATER GRILL

544 Grand Ave. • (213) 891-0900

This is one of my favorite LA restaurants. many consider this LA's best seafood house. There's grazing at the oyster bar and a regional menu divided into dishes from Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest, New Orleans, New England, and other locales. The setting is classic—lots of wood, leather, and brass.

Expensive. MGI



Nick + Stef's Steakhouse

Steak

**FLEMING'S PRIME
STEAKHOUSE & WINE
BAR**

800 West Olympic Blvd. • (213) 745-9911

LA BOUCHERIE

900 Wilshire Blvd. Fl. 71 • (213) 688-7777

LA PRIME

404 South Figueroa St. • (213) 612-4743

LAWRY'S THE PRIME RIB

100 La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills • (310) 652-2827

A local institution serving near-perfect prime rib off massive table-side carts with traditional side dishes. The creamed corn and spinach are both classics. For decades, Lawry's has been LA's favorite place for prime rib.

**MORTON'S THE
STEAKHOUSE**

735 South Figueroa St. Suite 207 • (213) 553-4566

**NICK + STEF'S
STEAKHOUSE**

330 South Hope St. • (213) 680-0330

THE PALM

1100 South Flower St. • (213) 763-4600

This hugely popular, New York-style steakhouse now also serves crab and oversized lobsters. Portions are immense.

**RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK
HOUSE**

224 South Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills • (310) 859-8744

Part of a quality national chain, the trademark here is a tender, juicy steak, which arrives at the table sizzling in butter, accompanied by one of seven different preparations of potatoes.

Thai

JITLADA

5233 West Sunset Blvd. • (213) 667-9809

Some of LA's most acclaimed Thai food is served here, including excellent mee krob and squid curry.

E.P. & L.P.

603 North La Cienega Blvd. • (310) 855-9955

The new pick in town. Innovative.

MY THAI

3407 West 6th St. • (213) 738-8849



STICKY RICE

317 South Broadway • (213) 621-2865

NIGHT + MARKET

9043 Sunset Blvd. • (310) 275-9724

LA Thai street food serving all the familiar favorites, plus some innovative specialties found nowhere else.

Koreatown

BEER BELLY

532 South Western Ave. • (213) 387-2337

Great beer selection

CHOSUN GALBI

3330 West Olympic Blvd. • (323) 734-3330

GWANG YANG BBQ

3435 Wilshire Blvd. #123 • (213) 385-5600

Great Korean BBQ

ISAAN STATION

125 North Western Ave. 111-112 • (323) 380-5126

Great Thai grilled meats in Koreatown

PARK'S BBQ

955 South Vermont Ave. G • (213) 380-1717

R BAR

3331 West 8th St. • (213) 387-7227

SOBAN RESTAURANT

4001 West Olympic Blvd. • (323) 936-9106

Try the Ganjang Ge Jang!

SUN NONG DAN

3470 West 6th St. #7 • (213) 365-0303



Japanese

ARASHI SUSHI

1111 South Hope St. #100 • (213) 749-1900

DAIKOKUYA RAMEN

327 East 1st St. • (213) 626-1680

KATSUYA

6300 Hollywood Blvd. • (323) 515-8782

KURA

333 East 2nd St. • (213) 290-9631

KAZUNORI: THE ORIGINAL HAND ROLL BAR

421 South Main St. • (213) 493-6956

MARUGAME MONZO

329 East 1st St. • (213) 346-9762

Q SUSHI

521 West 7th St. • (213) 225-6285

SHOJIN

333 South Alameda St. Suite 310 • (213) 617-0305

Vegan Japanese eatery

SUGARFISH

600 West 7th St. #150 • (213) 627-3000

SUSHI GEN

422 East 2nd St. • (213) 617-0552

SUSHI ZO

334 South Main St. #1106 • (424) 201-5576

SORA

900 Wilshire Blvd. Fl. 69 • (213) 688-7777

TAKAMI SUSHI

811 Wilshire Blvd. #2100 • (213) 236-9600

TENNO

207 South Central Ave. • (213) 625-0602



Sugarfish

Chinatown

ABC SEAFOOD

205 Ord St. • (213) 680-2887

Authentic Hong Kong-style seafood house, where huge tanks of squirming edibles ring the dining room and hungry patrons come in waves on weekends for dim sum. Expect lots of chaos and a kitchen that doesn't know from not using MSG.

BAOHAUS

727 North Broadway #130 • (213) 935-8740

CBS SEAFOOD

700 North Spring St. • (213) 617-2323

CHEGO

727 North Broadway #117 • (323) 380-8680

FOO-CHOW

949 North Hill St. • (213) 485-1294

HOP LI SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

526 Alpine St. • (213) 680-3939

OCEAN SEAFOOD

329 East 1st St. • (213) 346-9762

ORIEL CHINATOWN

1135 North Alameda St. • (213) 253-9419

YANG CHOW

819 North Broadway • (213) 625-0811

Italian

BESTIA

2121 East 7th Place • (213) 514-5724

BOTTEGA LOUIE

700 South Grand Ave. • (213) 802-1470

CICADA RESTAURANT

617 South Olive St., #911. • (213) 488-9488

DRAGO CENTRO

525 South Flower St. • (213) 228-8998



THE FACTORY KITCHEN

1300 Factory Place • (213) 996-6000

MACCHERONI REPUBLIC

332 South Broadway. • (213) 346-9725

BRERA RISTORANTE

1331 East 6th St. • (213) 553-8006

Mexican

BORDER GRILL

445 South Figueroa St. • (213) 486-5171

BROKEN SPANISH

1050 South Flower St. • (213) 749-1460

CASA LA DOÑA

800 South Main St. • (213) 627-7441

CHICHEN ITZA

3655 South Grand Ave. C6 • (213) 741-1075

GUELAGUETZA

3014 West Olympic Blvd. • (213) 427-0608



GUERRILLA TACOS

2000 East 7th St. • (213) 375-3300

GUERO'S COCINA

737 South Los Angeles St. • (213) 488-1574

GUISADOS

541 South Spring St. • (213) 627-7656

LA NOCHE BUENA

26 Olvera St. • (213) 628-2078

SONORATOWN

208 East 8th St. • (213) 628-3710

TACOS 1986

609 S Spring St. • (213) 988-7202



LMU Faculty Downtown Favorites

Michael Genovese



BADMAASH
108 West 2nd St.
Bold Indian restaurant
Try the Chicken Tikka
Poutine

BESTIA
2121 East 7th Place
Everything + Pizza

BROKEN SPANISH
1050 South Flower
Chicharron
recommended

CHOSUN GALBI
3330 West Olympic
Blvd.
Korean BBQ

**THE FACTORY
KITCHEN**
1300 Factory Place
Pricey but excellent
pasta; porchetta
recommended

GELATERIA ULI
541 South Spring St.

HOWLIN' RAYS
727 North Broadway
#128, Chinatown
Try the Nashville hot
chicken

**MACCHERONI
REPUBLIC**
332 South Broadway
Affordable Pastas

**PHILIPPE THE
ORIGINAL**
1001 North Alameda
Very affordable!
French dip sandwich
(double dip)

PREUX & PROPER
840 South Spring St.
Best fried chicken
sandwich

RICE BOX
541 South Spring St.
Cantonese BBQ

SONORATOWN
208 East 8th St.

TACOS 1986
609 South Spring St.
Best quesadilla

WATER GRILL
544 South Grand Ave.
Best oysters

Gene Park



BAVEL DTLA
500 Mateo St.

BESTIA

MAJORDOMO
1725 Naud St.

Janie Steckenrider



BOTTEGA LOUIE
Macarons
recommended

EGGSLUT
Grand Central Market

LA BOUCHERIE
900 Wilshire Blvd Fl 71
Located in the
InterContinental Hotel;
unbelievable!

WOKCANO
800 West 7th St.
Asian-fusion

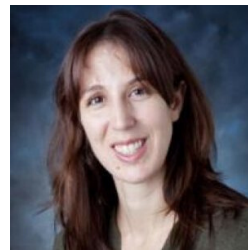
DRAGO CENTRO
525 South Flower St.

HATCH YAKITORI
700 West 7th St. Suite
G600

LITTLE SISTER
523 West 7th St.
A big favorite

UMAMI BURGER
852 South Broadway

Feryal Cherif



CHINCHIKURIN
350 East 1st St.
Hiroshima style
okonomiyaki
Try the chinchikurin
okonomiyaki and
(original takoyaki)

SUSHI GEN
422 East 2nd St.
Sashimi deluxe or
dinner, Sushi deluxe
combination
recommended

**KURA REVOLVING
SUSHI BAR**
333 East 2nd St.
Mainly for the novelty

**SHIN SEN GUMI
HAKATA RAMEN**
132 South Central Ave.

Kerstin Fisk



OTIUM
222 South Hope St.
Try the short rib and
the naan with truffle
butter

Miscellaneous

71ABOVE

633 West 5th St. 71st Floor • (213) 712-2683

ALMA

952 South Broadway • (213) 444-1422

A.O.C.

8700 West 3rd St. • (310) 859-9859

BÄCO MERCAT

408 South Main St. • (213) 687-8808

BAR AMÁ

118 West 4th St. • (213) 687-8002

CAFE PINOT

700 West 5th St. • (213) 239-6500

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN

735 South Figueroa St. Suite 305
• (213) 228-8500

CHURCH & STATE LA

1850 Industrial St. • (213) 405-1434

DAILY GRILL

613 South Flower St. • (213) 622-4500

DUBLIN'S IRISH PUB

815 West 7th St. • (213) 627-6900

EVERSON ROYCE BAR

1936 East 7th St. • (213) 335-6166

THE EXCHANGE

416 West 8th St. • (213) 395-9531

HIPPO

5916 1/2 North Figueroa St. • (323) 545-3536

FAITH & FLOWER

705 West 9th St. • (213) 239-0642

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU

3901 West 6th St. #4202 • (213) 568-3573

LASA

727 North Broadway #120 • (213) 443-6163

LE COMPTOIR

3606 West 6th St. • (213) 290-0750

LITTLE SISTER DOWNTOWN

523 W 7th St. • (213) 628-3146

NICKEL DINER

524 South Main St. • (213) 623-8301

NIGHTSHADE

923 E. 3rd St. • (213) 626-8888

NOMAD

649 Olive St. • (213) 358-0000

OTIUM

222 South Hope St. • (213) 935-8500

ORSA & WINSTON

122 West 4th St. • (213) 687-0300

PATINA RESTAURANT

141 South Grand Ave. • (213) 972-3331

PERCH LA

448 South Hill St. • (213) 802-1770

PREUX & PROPER

840 S Spring St. • (213) 896-0090

REDBIRD

114 East 2nd St. • (213) 788-1191

ROSSOBLU

San Julian St. • (213) 749-1099

SHIBUMI

815 South Hill St. • (323) 484-8915

TRAXX

800 North Alameda St. • (213) 625-1999

WELLTOPIA

1716 North Highland Ave. • (323) 848-4602