

Restaurants

Local Favorites

Portland is a foodie paradise. Our variety and abundance of local produce and meat, together with a Portland vibe favoring natural, organic everything, makes for a great eating scene. There are many hundreds of restaurants here that are worth a special trip. We won't presume to list or comment on them all. We suggest you check out opentable.com, where you can make reservations on-line and search for your favorite styles and flavors. However, we are blessed to live in a part of town with lots of nearby restaurants, and we tend to eat close by when we go out. Here's a list of the nearby restaurants and our comments on them. Enjoy! (Also see "Coffee shops" in Local Directory. [In response to guest questions, we've also included a few of our favorites farther afield at the end of this listing...])

- **Acadia**, 1303 NE Fremont, 503-249-5001. A long (but beautiful) walk through the Irvington neighborhood to get here is rewarded with marvelous 'Cajun-Creole' food. Barbecued shrimp appetizer is a favorite. Moderately expensive.
- **Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar**, 1439 NE Halsey St, 503-284-8040. If you just absolutely must have some national chain restaurant food, here it is. Their burgers and ribs are OK, and they serve food until midnight. Otherwise, check out the many other options in this listing. Moderately priced and walkable.
- **Aztec Willies Taqueria**, 1501 NE Broadway, 503-280-8900. Our guests report good experiences here both with the food and service. Popular with the folks who want to smoke with a meal, as they have sidewalk seating year round. Moderately priced. Walkable.
- **Black Water Bar**, 835 NE Broadway, 503-281-0439. Strange combo of "metal" music (in the evenings), grunge atmosphere, and vegan junk food. We haven't tried it as vegan food is not our "thing". Early reports of hostile service have given way to upbeat recent reviews... perhaps they have turned over a new leaf.
- **The Blind Onion**, 3345 NE Broadway, 503-284-2825. Divey looking pizza joint with above average American style pizza – and yes, they do have anchovies – in fact anchovies are free on Tuesdays! Small eat-in area – mostly carryout. Good range of beers. A long walk. Moderate pricing.
- **Blossoming Lotus**, 1713 NE 15th, 503-228-0048. Vegan restaurant that is always crowded. As dedicated carnivores, we haven't tried this place, but don't let that put you off as they get great reviews. Expensive. Walkable.
- **Broadway Grill and Brewery** 1700 NE Broadway, 503-284-4460. Reliable pub food and excellent beers they brew themselves. Lunch through late hours, and Sunday brunch. Multiple TV screens with the expected sports channels. Moderately priced. Very walkable.
- **Cadillac Café**, 1801 NE Broadway, 503-287-4750. Breakfast and lunch only place. Very popular on weekends for brunch with typically long lines after about 9:30am. So close you have to try it. Great omelets and burgers. Moderately priced. Very walkable. Service can be slow when they are crowded.

- **Capitol**, 1440 NE Broadway, no phone listed. Colorful and quirky bar with innovative comfort food and snacks as well as unusual cocktails and a decent wine and beer assortment. Kids OK until 8pm. Karaoke some nights. It's new but getting good reviews. Walkable, but we haven't tried it yet.
- **Cha Cha Cha! Mexican Taqueria**, 2635 NE Broadway, 503-288-1045. Mexican "fast food", local chain. Fresh, tasty, but rather predictable food. Inexpensive. Walkable.
- **Chai Yo Thai Restaurant**, 1411 NE Broadway, 503-287-0505. In the same building as Petisco (see below) this is a popular, moderately priced classic Thai restaurant. Gets great reviews, but we haven't eaten there in a number of years – when we found it a bit overpriced. But current reviews say prices are now more affordable. Evening only. Walkable.
- **Chen's Dynasty**, 1025 NE Broadway, 503-282-5811. Locally owned Chinese (Hunan and Szechuan) restaurant with lots of familiar dishes. We haven't tried it, but it gets OK reviews for moderate prices and tasty food. They offer carry-out options including ordering on-line at portlandchensdynasty.com.
- **Coco's Donuts**, 2735 NE Broadway, 503-477-9824. None of the goofy donut types sold at the legendary Voodoo Donuts downtown... just very well done classic types with great coffee. You can call or order on-line if you want to buy a feast's worth. A moderate walk, but worth it if you are in a donut mood.
- **Costello's Travel Caffe**, 2222 NE Broadway, 503-287-0270. A neighborhood favorite for good coffee, delicious sandwiches and quiche, and a variety of decadent desserts. Also they have excellent WIFI, which draws locals for working get-togethers. Moderately priced, breakfast, lunch and early supper. Walkable.
- **Eb & Bean Organic Frozen Yogurt**, 1425 NE Broadway, 503-281-6081. Great frozen yogurt, but that's about it. Walkable.
- **Fifteenth Avenue Hophouse**, 1517 NE Brazee St., 971-266-8392. Above average pub food with great burgers, fresh salads, and other specialties. Big beer list. Try the key-lime pie in a jar for dessert. A lovely stroll to get there along beautiful tree-line streets. Lazy? They deliver too.
- **Frank's Noodle House**, 822 NE Broadway, 503-288-1007. An improbably named northwest Chinese restaurant. Marvelous (and often very spicy) noodle dishes. Interesting specialties like noodles with squid, and stir-fried octopus. Moderately priced. No reservations. A long-ish walk.
- **Hale Pele**, 2733 NE Broadway, 503-662-8454. A classic Tiki Bar with all the trimmings of décor, drinks and food. Plenty of exotic (and relatively potent) drinks heavy on the rum plus an authentic assortment of Polynesian foods both for happy hour and dinner. Well rated ("best Tiki bar in Portland"), but we've never tried it. Walkable.
- **Hop Haven**, 2130 NE Broadway, 503-287-0244. An unpretentious venue with an adventurous selection of local beers and ciders on tap. Where else will you find TooleyBender Mango-Tango Cider or Culmination Momentary Lapse of Reason Hazy IPA? Worth a visit for the beer fanciers. Very walkable.
- **ICONIC**, 2226 NE Broadway, 503-946-1621. Good burgers and a big assortment of yummy tapas-style "sharables" that can add a *lot* to the otherwise reasonable cost of a lunch or dinner. Craft cocktails. Very walkable.

- **Koji Osakaya**, 1502 NE Weidler, 503-280-0992. Very well thought of local sushi place. Popular with expat Japanese who know great sushi when they taste it. A favorite also of our sushi-loving neighbors. Moderately expensive. A bit of a walk, but worth it for great sushi.
- **Lucca**, 3449 NE 24th Ave., 503-287-7372. On the northern edge of the Irvington neighborhood at Fremont Street, this is a favorite of ours for its classic Italian cuisine. They take their local food sourcing seriously. Moderate+ lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. Long walk, but worth it, especially on a warm evening.
- **McMenamins**, 1504 NE Broadway, 503-288-9498. Part of the sprawling local McMenamins chain with decent, predictable pub food, including burgers and salads plus their own beer with a well-deserved local reputation. Service can be slow, even when they aren't busy. Moderately priced. Walkable.
- **Milos' City Café**, 1325 NE Broadway, 503-288-6456. Two restaurants in one. And both are our favorites in the neighborhood! From 7:30am to 2:30pm they are one of the area's best breakfast/brunch places with wonderful egg dishes and great sandwich offerings. From 4:30pm to 9:30pm, they turn into a great dinner place with creative, well-prepared dishes that cover seafood and meat options. Our favorites are "Champagne Chicken" and "Northwest Seafood Stew". For an appetizer taste treat, try the Saganki – flaming cheese. Their "café selections" appeal to smaller appetites. Moderately priced. Walkable. No reservations.
- **Namaste Indian Cuisine**, 1403 NE Weidler, 503-442-3841. Tasty Indian food served up economically from steam tables. Nothing extraordinary, but you won't leave hungry. Walkable.
- **Nicholas**, 3223 NE Broadway, 503-445-4700. Lebanese and Middle Eastern food. Interesting selection of Lebanese wines. Can be crowded. Great food, especially the lamb with humus which is delicious. Moderately priced. A fairly long walk, but that will help you work up an appetite.
- **180 Xurros & Xocolata**, 2218 NE Broadway, 503-477-9163. Classic Catalan dessert specialties rated by Portland Monthly magazine as best dessert of 2016. Walk over and enjoy.
- **Pastini Pastaria**, 1426 NE Broadway, 503-288-4300. Moderately priced place focused on Italian pasta dishes accompanied by excellent wines. Can be crowded and noisy, but still a favorite of ours. No reservations. Walkable.
- **Petisco**, 1411 NE Broadway, 503-360-1048. Eclectic, European-inspired menu with reasonable prices. Don't be put off by the funky, below-grade location, as their food is always terrific. Try the chicken-salad salad (yes), the delectable Beef Carpaccio, or their bacon-wrapped meatloaf. Closed on Mondays. Brunch on weekends. Walkable.
- **Pizza Schmizza**, 628 NE Broadway, 503-517-9981. Decent, but not great American style pizza with the usual ingredients available, except anchovies – bah! A local chain. Quite a walk that could be worth the effort if you are really hungry for a pizza. Order on-line or by phone to pick up.
- **Pour Wine Bar Bistro**, 2755 NE Broadway, 503-288-7687. Main focus, as the name suggests is wine. Light munchies served. Evening hours only. Walkable. [Closed for a while. Opened again.]

- **Prime Rib and Chocolate Cake**, 1200 NE Broadway, 503-493-0100. Lunch and dinner only venue that serves terrific prime rib, as the name suggests. And the chocolate cake is divine as well. We haven't tried any of their other dishes. Moderately expensive. A bit of a walk, but worth it for the carnivore in you.
- **Rose & Thistle Public House**, 2314 NE Broadway, 503-287-8582. Traditional British/Scottish food isn't our thing, so we weren't impressed when we've tried this well-established pub. A good place for a big variety of UK-brewed beers and ales. Moderately priced. Open late. Walkable.
- **Spielman Bagels and Coffee**, 2200 NE Broadway, 503-477-9045. We haven't tried this place yet, but it gets good reviews for its East Coast style bagels. Walkable. Breakfast and lunch only.
- **Sushi Ohana**, 1422 NE Broadway, 503-284-1023. Our sushi-loving neighbors recommend it. We haven't tried it. Moderately priced. Walkable.
- **Sweet Basil Thai Cuisine**, 3135 NE Broadway, 503-281-8337. Excellent Thai food at reasonable prices; has been a fixture in the neighborhood for many years. In good weather enjoy patio dining. Order takeout too. A fairly long walk.
- **Swift Lounge**, 1932 NE Broadway, 503-288-3333. Dive-bar atmosphere with lots of patrons heavy on piercings, black clothing, and tattoos, especially later at night. Don't let that put you off, as the drinks are well mixed and the better-than-pub-style food is great.
- **Taco Pedaler**, 2225 NE Broadway, 503-946-1173. Popular, low cost eatery. Predictable Mexican dishes. Order at the counter. Our experience has been just "OK". Walkable.
- **Thai Pod**, 2015 NE Broadway, 503-493-1122. Very tasty, moderately priced Thai food. Curries are exceptional. Eat in or carry out. Recommended. Walkable.
- **Village Inn**, 1621 NE 10th Ave, 503-284-4141. We don't eat in chain restaurants normally, but this place does have excellent omelets and pancakes. Very reasonably priced. A bit of a walk.
- **Yuki Japanese Restaurant**, 1337 NE Broadway, 503-281-6804. Our local choice when we want sushi. Always fresh fish, but also good teriyaki and other traditional Japanese dishes for the less adventurous diners. Moderate-plus prices. Walkable. Note the substantial number of local sushi restaurants; competition keeps all of them on their toes.

Restaurants Farther Afield...

- **Bollywood Theater PDX**, 2039 NE Alberta, 971-200-4711. Great, reasonably priced South Asian (Indian) cuisine in a casual setting. Also has a restaurant on SE Division St., but that is considerably farther away. *Why we recommend:* A great example of the many popular, but often funky, restaurants on Northeast Alberta Street between Martin Luther King Blvd., and NE 33rd Avenue. Especially check out the Last Thursday art walk on Alberta Street in June, July and August each year.
- **Café Mingo**, 807 NW 21st Ave, 503-226-4646. Luscious meat dishes, Neapolitan pizza, and classic Italian mushroom and vegetable treats, make this one of our favorite Italian spots. The NS Streetcar goes right by it, if you want to avoid the NW parking hassles. Expensive. *Why we recommend:* Owners are old friends of Robert's.

- **Cassidy's Restaurant and Bar**, 1331 SW Washington, 503-223-0054. A hangout for many of our friends since it opened in 1979, Cassidy's serves a great happy hour menu and creative dinner entrées. Extensive wine and beer selections. Moderate+ pricing. *Why we recommend:* We rented the entire place to celebrate Robert's 40th birthday (don't ask how long ago)!
- **Firehouse Restaurant**, 711 NE Dekum St., 503-954-1702. Classic Neapolitan pizza and other well-prepared Southern Italian dishes. Delicious pizza hot from a traditional wood-fired oven designed and built in Naples and installed by Italian craftsmen. Not your traditional heavily laden American pizza. *Why we recommend:* Robert has family roots in Naples, and this is his go-to place for real Neapolitan style pizza. Busy, moderately priced.
- **Killer Burger**, 4644 NE Sandy Blvd., 971-544-7521. Local chain of mostly small store-front burger joints. Every burger is 1/3 pound and slathered with bacon – and they have dozens of variations. They buy ketchup by the gallon and put rolls of paper towels on the tables instead of napkins. My kind of restaurant. *Why we recommend:* A candidate for the best real, old-fashioned American hamburger in town. Local competition has pushed many burger places into the truffle oil and exotic meat camp to get yet higher ratings, but this place is the real deal.
- **Raven and Rose**, 1331 SW Broadway, 503-222-ROSE. Locavore paradise with a range of PNW and British-inspired dishes. Gets rave reviews. Expensive. *Why we recommend:* Besides the consistently great food and extensive wine list, the restaurant is in the restored Ladd Carriage House, dating to 1883, one of the most historic (and beautiful) surviving buildings in Downtown – saved by a grass roots campaign of concerned citizens which Jim and Robert were privileged to participate in. Be sure to visit the 2nd floor bar with its wood truss ceiling and fabulous artisanal cocktails.
- **Podnah's Pit**, 1625 NE Killingsworth, 503-281-3700. Classic, very casual and reasonably priced barbecue "joint". All meats cooked over oak hardwood fire. Don't be surprised if the folks at the table next to you strike up a conversation. *Why we recommend:* Our favorite for barbecue in a city not known for great 'que.
- **Southpark Seafood**, 901 SW Salmon Street, 503-326-1300. Portland's proximity to the ocean means we get great seafood, and Southpark is one of the places where it is really good, if quite expensive. The downtown location leans toward the formal side (although nice casual wear is not out of place). There are many really nice downtown restaurants, and this is one of the standouts. *Why we recommend:* When Robert worked downtown, this was one of our places to grab lunch together (when their prices are more moderate). Also, their weekend happy hour is one of the best in town with much more moderate pricing.

Food for Delivery

- **Pizza:**
 - Slice Pizza, 2701 NE Sandy Blvd, 503-235-8289. Until 9pm. Well reviewed. Not far.
 - Pizza Jerk, 5028 NE 42nd Ave., 503-284-9333. Until 9pm. Well reviewed. You can order by phone or using grubhub.com.
 - Pizza Schmizza, 628 NE Broadway, 503-517-9981. See listing for local restaurants above. They are open until 11pm for you night-owls.
- **Other Food Deliveries:**
 - Fifteenth Avenue Hophouse, 1517 NE Brazee St., 971-266-8392. See local restaurants above.
 - Delivery services:
 - Seamless.com
 - Grubhub.com