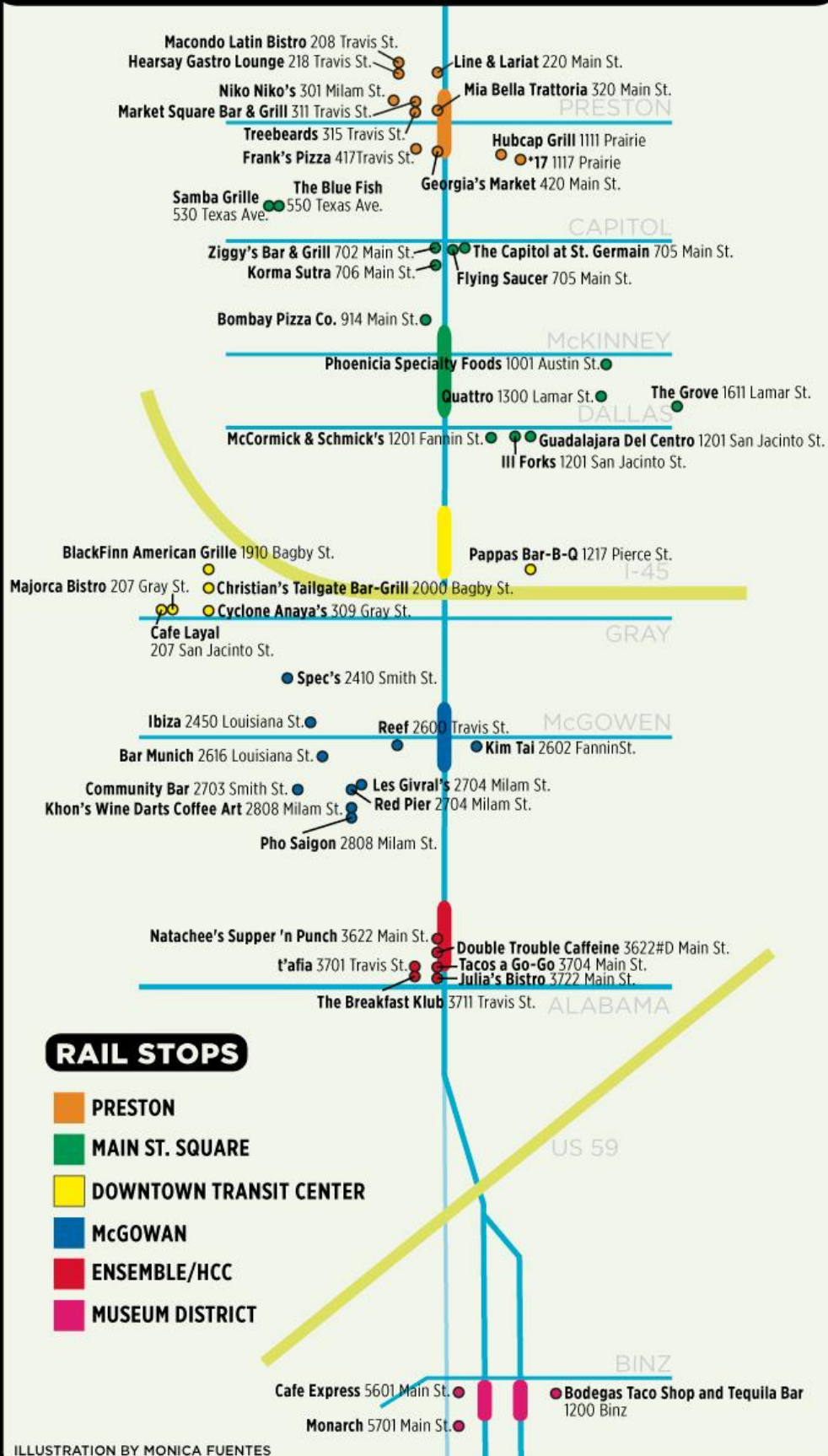


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Oxheart

This tiny Warehouse District restaurant may just represent the future of Houston dining. Chef Justin Yu's food is that personal, that precise, and that daring in its refusal to let major hunks of protein dominate its painterly plates. Three tasting menus are offered each evening - four courses for a modest \$49; seven for \$75; and a vegetable-centric four-course "Garden menu" for \$49, reflecting Yu's time at Napa Valley's vegetarian mecca, Ubuntu. These very modern meals, assembled with meticulous technique, would attract notice in any of Europe's or America's food capitals. Yet Yu's cuisine could be served nowhere but Houston. Striking baked goods and desserts by Yu's wife, pastry chef Karen Man, round out the constantly changing bill of fare. There are only 31 seats, so book well ahead.

Cuisine: American

Entree price range: \$\$\$\$

Where: 1302 Nance St.

Phone: 832-830-8592

Web: oxheartthouston.com

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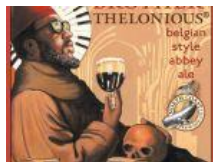
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8. Hubcap Grill

In a city where burger culture runs deep, Ricky Craig is the high-strung, exacting face of our current hamburger Renaissance. As chef-owner and jack of all trades, he has made his original downtown slot-in-the-wall famous not with costly grades of beef and fancy fixings, but with straightforward ingredients handled with extreme care. His hand-formed, never-frozen chuck patties shed juice beneath their forceful sear. His house-baked buns have an idiosyncratic, focaccia-style spring to them. Factor in distinguished hand-cut, twice-fried potatoes and you have destination dining in an improbably small, raffish space with limited hours (11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and it's cash only).

Cuisine: Hamburgers

Entree price range: \$

Where: 1111 Prairie St.

Phone: 713-223-5885

Web: hubcapgrill.com

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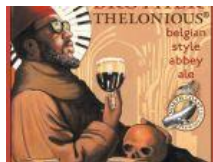
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15. Irma's
Chef-owner Irma Galvan's colorful magpie universe, paved floor to ceiling with knickknacks and thingamabobs, is one of the most delightful dining environments imaginable. Her homestyle Mexican breakfasts and plate lunches are further cause for rejoicing. Pristine guacamole, fruit-packed lemonade and flavor-trippy frijoles a la charra are among the brilliant details that show Galvan's dedication to quality. Order the enchiladas Mexicanas (queso fresco in a resonant red chile gravy) or the major-league pork tamales and you'll understand why the James Beard Foundation named Irma's one of its America's Classics.
Cuisine: Tex-Mex
Entree price range: \$\$
Where: 22 N. Chenevert St.
Phone: 713-222-0767
Web: irmashouston.com

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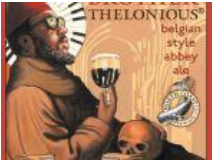
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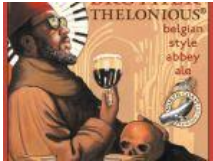
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23. Huynh
Don't look for the usual epic Vietnamese/Chinese menu at this sweetly contemporary family-run spot east of downtown. The menu is smartly edited and the Vietnamese soups, noodles, rice plates and stir-fries have a careful, homespun appeal. Mama Huynh's handmade rice-noodle wrappers, their texture a cool gossamer satin, set the restaurant apart. Have them rolled around simple chargrilled pork and greenery (banh uot thit nuong), or in any of the ban cuon dishes. Duck salad, duck vermicelli soup with fermented bamboo and chile-zapped lemongrass tofu all sparkle.
Cuisine: Vietnamese/Chinese
Entree price range: \$-\$\$
Where: 912 St. Emanuel St.
Phone: 713-224-8964
Web: huynhrestauranthouston.com

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30. Vic & Anthony's
 Chef Carlos Rodriguez and his capable team make this flashy downtown spot more than just another expensive meat-and-potato palace. Yes, the USDA Prime steaks can be terrific. The lobsters, too. But the regionally inflected menu shines in unexpected ways, from nightly Gulf seafood specials to memorable crab cakes to plump quail with greens and Sriracha sauce. The wine list and the wines themselves are carefully tended. There's an inviting marble counter with a kitchen view for solo diners. Even the ever-evolving house burger and hand-cut, sea-salt fries (served in the bar, and on Fridays in the main room, too) are things of beauty. End result? A local landmark with a distinctly Houston flavor.
 Cuisine: Steakhouse
 Entree price range: \$\$\$\$
 Where: 1510 Texas Ave.
 Phone: 713-228-1111
 Web: vicandanthony.com

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39. Quattro

Milanese chef Maurizio Ferrarese has brought this downtown hotel restaurant back onto the radar with his disciplined Italian cooking. He's a classicist with a few modern tricks up his sleeve. His housemade pastas can be excellent; they change seasonally, but look for things like paccheri with spicy little lamb meatballs or elegant gnocchi with bacon, shrimp and tomato. He's wonderful with meats (veal osso buco with a lacy-crisp cake of saffron risotto; lamb chop and shank; letter-perfect Milanese), and he can reel out a deep, deceptively simple soup like a puree of caramelized salsify.

Cuisine: Italian

Entree price range: \$\$\$\$

Where: 1300 Lamar St.

Phone: 713-276-4700

Web: [quattrorestauranthouston.com](#)

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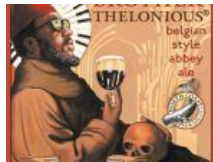
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61. Cafe TH

By sheer force of personality, chef-owner and natural-born host Minh Nguyen transforms his EaDo banh mi and noodle shop into a warm, homespun restaurant that's like nothing else in town. By day, he dispenses carefully made baguette sandwiches, the standout featuring cloud-light pork meatballs (xiu mai), and such treats as surprisingly good vegan pho or gorgeous made-to-order Autumn rolls, their cool rice paper wrapped around coins of Chinese sausage, jicama, herbs and vermicelli. His rustic turnip pancake (banh bot chien) ranks as a destination dish. By night, on Thursdays and Fridays only, white tablecloths and subdued lighting transform the space into a BYOB bistro with a three-course prix fixe menu for a bargain \$20. Choices might include gently spiced spareribs, a stout Vietnamese pancake folded around chargrilled pork and herbs, with finger bananas fried in a crunchy batter for dessert. With a backdrop of Big Band Swing, marimba music and Minh's entertaining patter, it's a delightful experience.

Cuisine: Vietnamese

Entree price range: \$

Where: 2108 Pease St.

Phone: 713-225-4766

Related Article: Restaurant review: Cafe TH



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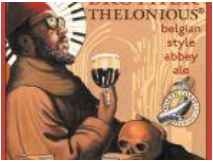
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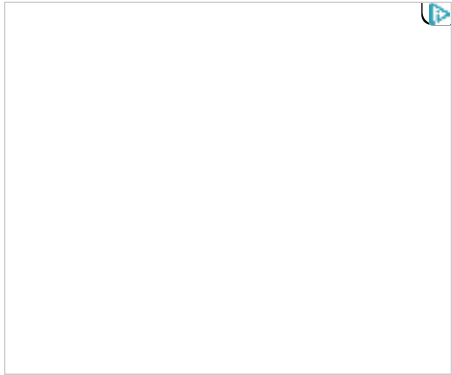
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PHOTO BY KAREN WARREN/STAFF

Batanga
This tapas restaurant has a lot to love: the stylish dining room, a terrific patio and a small but interesting menu of shareable plates. Don't miss the duck confit arepas.
908 Congress, 713-224-9500

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PHOTO BY ERIC KAYNE/FREELANCE

Breakfast Klub
There always seems to be a line around this iconic Midtown cafe, which serves only breakfast and lunch. Folks are happy to wait for a big plate of wing-topped waffles or the silly-good fried catfish and grits.
711 Travis, 713-528-8561

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Charivari
This intimate (some might say stuffy) dining room tucked into a tiny Midtown strip center is overseen by Transylvanian chef-owner Johan Schuster and his German-born wife. The seasonal menus are filled with fancy (and very pricey) European fare. Try the Wiener schnitzel and Schuster's fragrant garlic soup.
2521 Bagby, 713-521-7231

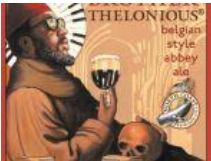
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Georgia's Market
In addition to soups, sandwiches and salads, this downtown cafe offers a steam table of ready-to-serve, organic dishes such as stuffed peppers, chicken cacciatore and Albondigas. The light-filled dining area offers great people-watching on Main, or retreat to the cozy wine cellar where organic beers and wine are served. 420 Main, 713-225-0990

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Goro & Gun
What happens when a hip food truck decides to go the brick-and-mortar route? You get a hip ramen shop. The small restaurant, a recent addition to the downtown scene, boasts an intriguing cocktail menu.
306 Main, 713-550-3823

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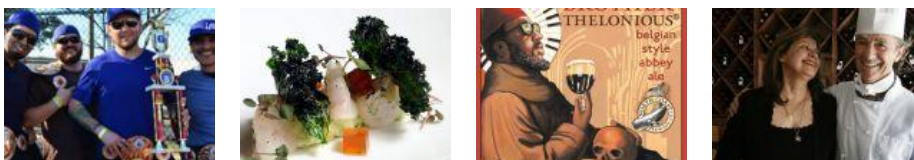


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Mkt Bar

This industrial chic wine bar is part of Phoenicia Specialty Foods' downtown market. During the day, office workers take advantage of the market's large prepared-foods section and then use the wine bar for indoor picnics. In the afternoon, it becomes a buzzy full-service cafe with an eclectic menu of small plates and boutique wines. Live music many nights and food and drink specials nightly.

1001 Austin, 832-360-2222

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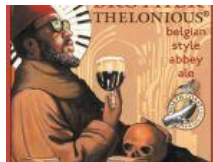
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The Pass

This fine-dining room is part of Terrence Gallivan and Seth Siegel-Gardner's dual concept the Pass & Provisions. Two tasting menus (five or eight courses) are served each night in this intimate space. The chef/owners present each plate to the table and encourage discussion of the dishes.

807 Taft, 713-628-9020

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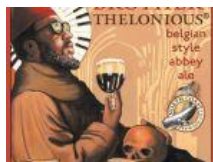
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Monica, I asked you for this list a few months ago, but at lunch time.
So is this list, for all times or dinner or lunch?
Restaurants have a captive audience at lunch, and will have repeat customers
bringing friends and family. Can you tell me which of these restaurants have a
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Sparrow Bar & Cookshop

Chef Monica Pope's passion for locally grown ingredients and her market-driven menus make a visit an education if not a treat. Pope's fare - mustard-coated rabbit tenderloin, Thai-style mushroom stroganoff and green chili grits - is memorable but not fussy.

3701 Travis, 713-524-6922

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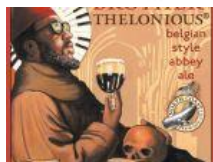
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- Cruise ship back in Houston after nearly 200 fall ill
- Amanda Knox's murder conviction reinstated
- Chinatown raid targets exploitation of illegal workers
- Police: Subject of Muppet police sketch nabbed in North Texas

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The Shops at Houston Center

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Store Directory - Listing by Category



click thumbnails for larger maps



Dining

Suite	Retail Name	Phone Number
333	Au Bon Pain	713.659.2525
323	Bullritos	713.752.2855
351	Captain D's	713.750.0901
363	<u>Chick-fil-A</u>	713.650.8081
479	D'lish N' Dash	281.953.5474
379	Doozo's Dumplings & Noodles	713.571.6898
374	Freshii	713.659.2200
347	Fusion Grillerz	713.752.2322
369	Great American Cookie	713.650.0505
319	Great Wraps	832.831.0631
325	Greenz	713.255.2800
114	Massa's Seafood	713.655.9100
337	Murphy's Deli	713.759.9939
355	Ninfa's in the Park	713.655.8206
355	Ninfa's Mexican Express	713.655.8206
331	Otto's Barbecue & Hamburgers	832.553.6886
321	Pho Huy Vietnamese Noodle House	Coming Soon!
380	Potbelly Sandwich Works	713.751.0032
369	Pretzel Time	713.650.0505
402	Quizno's Subs	713.951.9425
357	Roman Delight Pizza	713.650.6004
339	Salata	713.739.9000
353	Sarku Japan	713.658.0150
341	Simon's Homestyle Café	713.739.9000
371	Squeezed	713.651.0577
373	Starbuck's Coffee	713.750.0668
476	Starbuck's Coffee	713.654.9113
343	Subway	713.951.9299
103	Tejas Grill & Sports Bar	713.739.8352
345	Thai Basil	713.659.4488
365	The Mediterranean Grill	713.651.1481
327	Treebeards	713.400.9595

361 Wok & Roll 713.739.8701

Shopping

<i>Suite</i>	<i>Retail Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
437	Animal Kingdom	713.571.1894
313	Designs by Dorli	713.571.0774
395	Dress Barn	713.650.6762
431	Funatics	713.654.4959
406	Gateway News	713.751.1604
421	General Nutrition Center	713.651.1408
105	JoS. A. Bank Clothiers	713.739.7877
303	My Workshop & Gallery	713.659.2384
387	N'Style Accessories	713.651.0655
301	Park Drug Store	713.650.1610
391	Radio Shack	713.652.9070
427	Trudy's	713.652.0688
429	Trudy's Hallmark	713.951.9580
307	Worth-The-Weight	713.759.1115

Services

<i>Suite</i>	<i>Retail Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
309	Allstate Insurance/Smith Insurance	713.658.0869
411	Berkeley Eye Center	713.759.9449
433	Chase Bank	713.654.9442
413	Conference Center	713.759.1442
479	D'lsh Catering	281.953.5474
305	Flite Banking	Now Open!
481	Frost Bank	713.388.7600
483	Houston Center Central Security	713.759.1002
415	Houston Ear, Nose, Throat & Allergy	713.650.3776
461	Kelsey-Seybold Clinic	713.442.4700
417	Kelsey-Seybold Pharmacy	713.442.6337
310	Lance Construction	713.571.9800
444	Larry North Fitness Club	713.650.1001
545	Management Office	713.759.1442
360	Nick's Shoe Shine Service	713.291.4114
403	Precision Graphics	713.650.6006

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The Shops at Houston Center

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Houston, TX 77010

713-759-1442

<http://www.shopsathc.com/>

District: [Shopping](#)

The Shops at Houston Center offer a great line-up of restaurants, stores, and services within walking

distance for the Downtowner on-the-go. Whatever you're after -- the latest hair style, techno-gadgets, filet mignon, you can find it and more at The Shops.

HOURS

Retail Hours:

M – F: 10 am – 6 pm

Saturday: 7 am – 8 pm

Sunday: 7 am - 5 pm

Food Court Hours:

M – F: 7 am – 6 pm

Saturday: 9 am – 3 pm

Restaurant Hours:

M – Sunday: Hours vary (see [Store Directory](#) for more information)



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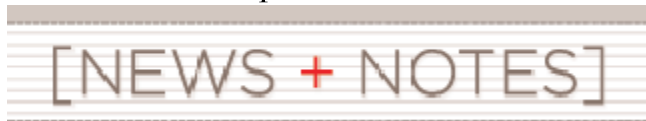
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