



## 112 Eatery

### Minnesota Restaurants

112 N. Third Street (Minneapolis)

\$10-\$32, casual, a-la-carte menu, lamb, veal, pasta, steak, seafood. We have only been here a few times, but each time the food and service have been excellent. Our last visit, in December of 2016, I had some of my favorites – the lamb appetizer and the duck breast. Jan tried a wonderful salad (rose apples with jamón ibérico - Spanish ham- and black walnuts and the seabass. The lamb scottadito seemed expensive at \$16, but it was worth it – 3 smaller lamb chops, pounded thin and accompanied by a nice yogurt sauce. The duck breast was a large portion, but not as tasty/tender as I recall from the last meal.

For dessert, we had the chocolate torte w malted chocolate ice cream and a glass of Sauternes. The wine list had a nice selection of moderately priced wines – many under \$50.

On earlier visits we had the tagliatelle with foie gras meatballs – a great tasting pasta and two very light meatballs of foie gras and ground chicken; and for dessert a banana éclair that was excellent. The service was excellent – friendly, timely and the server really knew the menu by heart and how everything was prepared.

Comments from our most recent visit on 5/6/22: Still an excellent meal. Wine prices are higher than before – not many under \$70/bottle. Food and service was excellent.

The lamb scottadito (\$19) was still 3, tasty chops pounded flat. The halibut (\$34) was so tender and flavorful. Jan had the swordfish (\$28) which was very different – pounded more flat like a picatta

612-343-7696



## Minnesota Restaurants

### 112 Eatery (continued)

and with a mildly spicy, tomato based sauce – very good.  
Mocha Mousse Torte (\$13) for dessert was great.  
Ask for a quiet room on the second floor.  
Meter parking.  
[www.112eatery.com](http://www.112eatery.com)

### 5-8 Club

5800 Cedar Avenue S. (Minneapolis)

Pub fare. Restaurant and bar seating. Juicy Lucy burgers. Usually busy. We like Matt's Juicy Lucy's better. 612-823-5858

### Acapulco

1113 Silver Lake Road (New Brighton)

\$9-\$15, Mexican, casual, warm chips, good service, large menu of both entrees and margaritas – try the Cadillac – high grade tequila, grand mariner and a great price \$7.50. They do not have any mole choices. [www.acapulcomn.com](http://www.acapulcomn.com) 651-636-4288

### Acqua

4453 Lake Ave. South (White Bear Lake)

\$16-\$34, Rustic Italian, small deck, nice patio on the lake beside the harbor. Great menu selection, we had a lightly battered, spicy calamari and their lamb special (very tasty and the oyster mushroom risotto was excellent). They also have chicken, steak and seafood. Flavorful butter and great bread. Good chocolate ganache dessert. Great service – patio seating was great. 651-407-7317  
One of our favorite places – especially in the summer.  
<http://acqua-restaurants.com/white-bear-lake/>



**Al Vento** (Closed)

## Minnesota Restaurants

5001 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. (Minneapolis)

\$11-\$26, casual (jeans okay)

612-724-3009

Excellent tasting food, nicely presented. We have now been here a number of times. This is one of our favorite dining spots.

A small, Southern Italian bistro with simple, but nice décor. Frequently changing menu with items such as scallops, pasta, mussels, shrimp, pork tenderloin, swordfish, and chicken.

We've tried many meals here and liked all of them. Items that stand out were the lamb chops, scallops and chicken parmesan.

We generally try to make reservations, but one time did not have reservations so we sat at the bar. There was plenty of room to eat at the granite/marble topped bar. However, the service was not as good as what we perceived at the dining tables. Table service has generally been attentive.

The dining room is divided into two parts. I would choose the front dining – the back was a bit stuffy. Of course, in the warmer months, their patio is the place to be. Sometimes if a bus goes by, you get a brief whiff of that nasty exhaust, but take another sip of wine and enjoy what matters.

They offer a number of good desserts and the Tiramisu is huge!

The wine list is small, but reasonably priced.

½ priced bottles of wine on Sundays and Mondays and all other nights from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

[www.alventorestaurant.com](http://www.alventorestaurant.com)



**Alma**

## Minnesota Restaurants

528 University Ave SE (Minneapolis)

three course tasting menu for \$59. Some fantastic, local area food. One of our favorites in the downtown Minneapolis area – especially before the Guthrie. We have been here numerous times and have never been disappointed. The menu changes frequently, so there is always something different to try. Some excellent choices we have had included cucumber soup, bison tartar, spagatini, dumplings, lamb, rabbit, duck. Excellent choice of desserts. Moderate wine list with a few good choices under \$60. Service is generally attentive without being pushy. Parking can be a couple of blocks away on the side street (they do have valet for a fee).

Small dining area, so make reservations.

The chef has won a James Beard award as one of best restaurants in the Midwest.

**As of 2023, they now only do a 10 course tasting menu at \$95/person.**

[www.almampls.com](http://www.almampls.com)

612-379-4909



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Axel's Charhouse**

2540 Cleveland Ave N (Roseville)

\$17-\$38, casual, jeans ok, a bit pricey, but a great menu selection of both appetizers and entrees. Filet, prime rib, Steak Oscar, walleye, shrimp, scallops, veal, crab, striped bass, salmon, chicken, pasta, jambalaya and gumbo, blackened tenderloin tips, crab cakes, coconut shrimp, calamari, seared Ahi, burgers. Serves lunch.  
Wine list was fairly short, but a few bottles under \$30. 651-636-4567

### **Bachelor Farmer** (Closed)

50 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave (Minneapolis)

\$17-\$27, casual, fresh and simple food that honors Minnesota's Nordic heritage, excellent meal of beef tartare toast, bib salad, meatballs with lingonberries, good selection of mostly reasonably priced wines, excellent service, street parking  
[www.thebachelorfarmer.com](http://www.thebachelorfarmer.com) 612-206-3920



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Bar La Grassa

800 Washington Ave. N. (Minneapolis)

\$10-\$35, casual, Italian, lots of menu choices, nice valued wine list. Excellent food and good prices. \$3 valet parking – coat check available. A bit noisy when crowded. \$100 for two meals, two appetizers, bottle of wine and tip. We ordered some of the small plate items (\$6-\$8 each) for an appetizer and our main courses. Lamb meat balls were very good as was the rabbit. Forget the veal ragu – the tomato over powers the veal. Jan loved the spaghetti Carbonara (pasta with bits of bacon and served with an over easy egg on top that you then mix in with the pasta).

612-333-3837

12/22 visit – I guess we have not been here in a while since the above prices are quite out of date, but not a bad value for 2022.

Excellent service and still lots of menu choices. \$17-\$42 – I started with a spiced carpaccio bruschetta (\$18) that was good – but the bruschetta was too large to pick up and cutting it was difficult. Jan had the rabbit pasta (\$25) which was plentiful and tender. I had the spicy lamb pasta (\$24) which was large, good and spicy. It could have had a bit more flavor. With a bottle of wine, two desserts and two coffees, the total (without tip) was \$166 – a great value for excellent food.

Valet parking - \$15 [www.barlagrassa.com](http://www.barlagrassa.com)

### Bellisio's

405 Lake Avenue South (Duluth)

Italian, owned by Grandmas, 250 different wines, wine flights, casual, great calamari, good service and food, a real Italian restaurant.

218-727-4921

Wine Spectator award winner (moderate \$).



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Big Bowl

Rosedale Mall

\$9-\$11, Thai, Chinese, nice selection of Asian food, noodles, rice, curry, stir fry bar, carry-out or sit down dining, nice décor, fast service  
[www.bigbowl.com](http://www.bigbowl.com) 651-636-7173

### Big Ten Tavern

4703 Highway 10 (Arden Hills)

Good all you can eat fish fry (Pollock), but nothing special. Prime rib (Fri/Sat), burgers, etc. See pizza section for comments on pizza.  
[welschsbigten.com](http://welschsbigten.com) 651-633-7253

### Black Sea

737 N. Snelling (St. Paul)

\$4-\$10, Turkish, small dining area, lamb(gyro), chicken  
Good value – soft drinks only, good for lunch.  
[www.blacksearestaurant.com/](http://www.blacksearestaurant.com/) 651-917-8832

### Blue Door Pub

1811 Selby Ave. (St. Paul)

Juicy Blucy's – burgers - lots of choices. \$6.50-\$7, great hand cut fries.  
[www.thebdp.com](http://www.thebdp.com) 651-493-865

### Boca Chica

11 Concord Street (St. Paul)

\$13-\$16, Mexican, one of the best margaritas around (\$10), great food, salsa was fresh and homemade, rice was light and fluffy, large menu selection, lot of tequilas by the shot, reservations suggested, small outdoor dining area (12 tables).  
<http://www.bocachicarestaurant.com> 651-222-8499



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Buona Sera**

11949 W River Rd. (Champlin)

\$15-\$23, Italian, casual, Reservations recommended. Closed Monday. Small outdoor patio. Located in a small residential neighborhood. Still one of our favorites. A large menu, something for everyone, and usually a couple of specials. Superb veal (especially Saltimbocca and Marsala). Jan does not like their Caesar salad as it is an oil based dressing. Excellent wine list – mostly under \$50, good calamari, good service, excellent value. Have never had a bad meal here.  
[www.buonaserawinebar.com](http://www.buonaserawinebar.com)

763-421-1814

### **Cabin 61**

4150 Hoffman Rd (White Bear Lake)

\$15-\$18, top notch bar menu, burgers, fish fry, tacos, good choice of beers, patio  
Fish fry (\$15) was 2 large pieces of deep fried cod – light breading – ok flavor – nothing special. Excellent tartar sauce, bland coleslaw. Fast and quick service.  
<http://www.cabin61.com/>





## Minnesota Restaurants

### Canyon Grille

3490 Northdale Blvd. (Coon Rapids)

Entrees are priced in the \$14-\$29 range. The NY strip (\$29) had a mushroom and truffle sauce. It was one of the better NY strips I have had – very tender. However, it is not worth \$29!

763-323-9100

The beef medallions (\$18) were excellent and could be ordered as a larger portion if desired. Steaks came with choice of potato - everything else is a-la-carte.

The restaurant is a Wine Spectator award winner (moderate \$) and offers about 20 wines by the glass. Sundays and Mondays – all bottles are 25% off. Many wines were priced under \$35.

The service was lacking and the Crème Brulee tasted more like pudding than baked custard. Overall, a good value for wine, but better choices for steaks.

### Cesare's Wine Bar

(Closed)

New owners under new name –  
Domaćin Restaurant &  
Winebar

102 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Stillwater)

\$16-\$28, Over 300 wines reasonably priced, casual wine bar, six people can reserve wine cellar with a minimum \$200 food and wine tab. Small menu includes about 5 main entrees (steak au poivre was very good) – focus is on the wine.

651-439-1352

Wine Spectator award winner. About 10 red wines by the glass. They also have a ½ bottle policy whereby if you order two glasses of any wine priced up to \$125 a bottle wine, they will open the bottle and serve you two glasses (you pay ½ of the full bottle cost). About four tables are available on the patio.

[www.cesareswinebar.com](http://www.cesareswinebar.com)



## Minnesota Restaurants

<b>Cherokee Sirloin Room</b>	886 Smith Avenue South (West St. Paul) 4625 Nicols Road (Eagan)	\$15-\$35, casual, lots of steak choices, some seafood and chicken, good filet, horrible prime rib, slow and inattentive service. 2010 - Easter brunch – not close to being worth \$17	651-457-2729 651-454-6744
<b>Chianti Grill</b>	2050 N. Snelling (Roseville)	\$14-\$29, Italian, pasta, veal, chicken, steak. Lobster ravioli, seafood, small patio, nice décor, good wine list – a number under \$40, service could generally be better, but very good food, some nice appetizers. Pretty good Sunday brunch. <a href="http://www.chiantigrill.com">www.chiantigrill.com</a>	651-644-2808
<b>Chickadee Cottage</b>	9900 Valley Creek Road (Woodbury)	\$10-\$15, family dining, beef, pork, chicken, seafood, good homemade meals, large portions, very nice country décor	651-578-8118
<b>Chino Latino</b> (Closed)	2916 Hennepin Avenue South (Minneapolis)	\$21-\$30, Casual, Asian, Dim Sum, and Eclectic & International. The menu is long and varied, with dishes from all over South America, the Caribbean and Asia. Some larger plates as well as smaller appetizers to share. Small wine list, but a good drink menu. A good Margarita was \$13. Valet parking or down the block in a parking garage. Can get loud. <a href="http://www.chinolatin.com">www.chinolatin.com</a>	612-824-7878
Churchill Street	4606 Churchill Street (Shoreview)	\$17-\$32, shrimp, walleye, chicken, steak Closed Monday-Tuesday, great review in the Star Tribune. Saturday and Sunday – brunch 9am-2pm Automatic 15% service charge/tip added. <a href="https://www.churchillst.com/">https://www.churchillst.com/</a>	

**RED = excellent**

6/2/2024

**GREEN = good**

**BLACK = visited**



## Minnesota Restaurants

**Corner Table** (Closed)

4537 Nicollet Ave. S (Minneapolis)

\$17-\$26, chicken, pork, flat-iron steak, affordable wine list. 612-823-0011

Reserve the Chef's Table for a very special occasion: \$125 per person for dinner, but you are in control of how much you eat. They feed you courses, not from the menu, but off of the top of their heads – with wine and beer pairings – until you tell them to stop. Most people eat somewhere between 15-20 courses. We celebrated Jan's birthday in 2010 at the chef's table – a truly memorable experience. We had 20 courses, 2 beers and 16 wines – were we stuffed! The record is 26 courses! The food and wine were excellent, and what an experience watching the chef make small courses just for us. Mike Phillips (formerly of The Craftsman) was also in the kitchen that night working with the chef (Scott Pampuch). So, we were lucky to have Mike also prepare us a couple of dishes. Many dishes had fresh spices such as sage, rosemary, mint. All were exquisitely prepared – we had: watermelon and fruit cup, ravioli, spicy scrambled eggs and tomatoes, poached egg curry with croutons and squash, rosemary fettuccini with white beans and tomatoes, baked beans, chicken pate, homemade chips and cheese, sausage biscuit with gravy, herb rubbed veal loin, broccoli soup, pork skirt steak, part of a pig neck, chunk of bacon with fingerling potatoes, pickled brown cherries and melon, pumpkin rice pudding, cheeses, chocolate tart and 2 more that I cannot remember!

[www.cornertablerestaurant.com](http://www.cornertablerestaurant.com)



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Cosettas

211 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street (St. Paul)

\$4-\$8, jeans, cafeteria style Italian, lots of fresh made Italian food including hoagies, pizza (\$3 a slice), lasagna, pasta, cacciatore chicken, Italian market is connected to the store, good value, but nothing fancy, a couple of wines by the glass.  
[www.cosettas.com](http://www.cosettas.com)

651-222-3476

### Cru

10340 Baltimore St. NE (Blaine)

\$10-\$32, casual. Chef was at Heartland. Lamb, chicken, burgers, beef, quail, rabbit, lobster bisque, 3 course tasting menu, Sunday brunch. Sunday and Monday night – ½ price wine. Patio with fireplace. One word for Cru – Average. Food was only okay (halibut and quail) – nothing really special about the taste or the presentation. Crab cakes also just average. Service again – average. Not attentive and did not continue to pour wine. Server said a sommelier was there, but alas could not be found when we had a question on a bottle of Cotes du Rhone. Wine prices were reasonable, and selection was good, but it looks like they are in the process of making wholesale changes to this. One of our menus was outdated and did not list all of the current day's items. The white chocolate covered brownie was the best part of the meal and was very good – the ruby port we had to accompany the dessert was also a disappointment.

[www.restaurantcru.com](http://www.restaurantcru.com)

763-717-2235

### Culvers

4485 Centerville Road (Vadnais Heights)

custard, burgers, fries, hot dogs, chicken, dine in or drive through - only custard stand near home

651-762-9600



## Minnesota Restaurants

Demi

212 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Minneapolis)

Very expensive, but top rated (Trib 4\*). About \$200 per person. Fixed price tasting menu only. Two seatings per night. Reservations required. Reservations open up the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month, at noon, via the restaurant's website. You reserve for the following month. They are usually gone in a few hours.

[Demimpls.com](http://Demimpls.com)

612-404-1123

**Dixies on Grand** (Closed) 695 Grand Ave. (St. Paul)

\$15-\$26, Casual, patio, small wine list. One of a few places in town where you can get Southern cooking, fried green tomatoes, catfish, southern fried chicken, gumbo, jambalaya, ribs, pot roast, biscuits, corn bread. Cup of gumbo (\$6) was good – not too spicy and good chunks of shrimp and andouille. Blackened catfish (\$19) was a nice sized portion, very tender and the spice did not overpower the fish. Side of baked beans was excellent - seemed to have the BBQ sauce that perhaps they use on their ribs. The monthly special was Bluegrass beef tips and grits (\$22) – a unique and very tasty dish of beef tips, wild mushrooms, asparagus and bourbon demi-glace over blue cheese grits. The warm biscuits were great and the honey butter was a nice addition. Enjoy the patio during the warmer weather. Service was average – not bad, but nothing special either. On par for this type of establishment. [www.dixiesongrand.com](http://www.dixiesongrand.com)

651-222-7345



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Domaćin Restaurant & Winebar**

102 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Stillwater)

\$24-\$39, Huge international wine list, many reasonably priced. Casual wine bar with some patio seating. Very small menu - focus is on the wine.

651-439-1352

Two wine flights available, but not as many wines by the glass as I had hoped. Mushroom risotto was good, but the sea bass was sort of blah. Excellent chocolate ganache dessert. They had a nice ruby port and an excellent Sauternes. Service was excellent. Overall – great wine and service, average food.

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

### **Donatellis**

2692 East County Road E (White Bear Lake)

\$10-\$20, Casual, many booths and tables, typical ‘red’ Italian décor.

651-777-9199

Good service and good food – large portions. Pasta, pizza, sandwiches, veal parm.

Just a few wine choices. Closed Mondays.

<https://donatellis.com>

### **Don Julio**

4660 Highway 61 N (White Bear Lake)

\$7-\$11, Mexican, fast service, okay chips and salsa, good margarita’s (get the jumbo Texas), good food, one mole dish, great value, small patio  
Closed Mondays

652-407-2888

[www.donjuliomexicanrestaurant.com](http://www.donjuliomexicanrestaurant.com)

### **Everest on Grand**

1278 Grand Ave. (St. Paul)

\$10-\$16, Nepali, Tibetan, Indian

651-696-1666

[www.everestongrand.com](http://www.everestongrand.com)

### **Famous Dave's BBQ**

2131 Snelling Ave (Roseville)

\$7-\$15, jeans, ribs, BBQ sandwiches, cafeteria style service.

651-633-4800



## Minnesota Restaurants

Fogo de Chão	645 Hennepin Ave. (Minneapolis)	\$57/dinner, all you can eat, Brazilian steak house, Wine Spectator awards <a href="http://www.fogodechao.com">www.fogodechao.com</a>	612-338-1344
<b>Forepaugh's</b> (Closed)	276 South Exchange St. (St. Paul)	\$23-\$54, business casual, duck, quail, beef burgundy, stroganoff, six course tasting menu (\$55), limited menu, average service, better values elsewhere, large wine list, valet parking, patio dining <a href="http://www.forepaughs.com">www.forepaughs.com</a>	651-224-5606
Giulia	215 S. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street (Minneapolis)	\$16-\$42, Italian, try the string cheese appetizer (Mozzarella a Mano) – huge and made at your table. Closed Sunday and Monday. <a href="https://www.dinegiulia.com/">https://www.dinegiulia.com/</a>	612-215-5450
<b>Giuseppe's</b>	1435 Silver Lake Rd NW (New Brighton)	\$8-\$16, Italian, jeans, small, intimate in a small strip mall, okay food, service more like a casual pizza restaurant, about 4 red wines – all less than \$30 – nothing special, chicken marsala was greasy, fettuccine alfredo not very good, probably better for lunch	651-631-2744
Gluek's bar	16 North 6 <sup>th</sup> Street (Minneapolis) Near Target field	\$10-\$18, Friday Fish Fry (\$14) – Cajun catfish/red beans and rice <a href="http://www.glueks.com">www.glueks.com</a>	612-338-6621



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Grandma's Wine Bar and Grill** (Closed)

3000 Harbor Lane, Suite 100 (Plymouth)

Jeans, large reasonably priced wine list, many that can be sampled in 'flights'. However, beware – the wine menu was outdated (10/2000). We were served two different wines than what were on the menu.

763-550-1666

An okay place to have dinner. Food was fine, but the service was poor. Our entrée came literally two bites after our salads. The red wine flight we had was served too warm. Not worth the drive.

[www.grandmasrestaurants.com](http://www.grandmasrestaurants.com)

### **Great China** (Closed)

3547 Lexington Ave. N. (at County Road "D" - Arden Hills)

\$6-\$10, jeans, best Chinese in the city, large portions, very generous with the portions of meat, great hot and sour soup (a small is enough for two), ask for a frequent customer stamp card.

651-481-8100

[www.ahgreatchina.com](http://www.ahgreatchina.com)

### **Hyacinth**

790 Grand Ave (St. Paul)

Southern Italian. Smaller, very noisy dining room. Dining room includes a small bar and you can watch the meals being prepared. Smaller menu, and everything is a-la-carte – no bread service either. We did not care much for their wine list – not much under \$50 and no Shiraz or decent zins. All prices include the tip.

I had the duck breast (\$30), which was good sized portion and flavorful, my wife had ½ portion of fusilli squash (\$16) – okay, but nothing special. Noisy, crowded and hard to find street parking. Would not return.

[www.hyacinthstpaul.com](http://www.hyacinthstpaul.com)





## Minnesota Restaurants

### **IE (Italian Eatery)**

(Closed)

4724 Cedar Ave (Minneapolis)

\$17-\$29, Italian, nice menu with an emphasis on pasta. Wine list was mainly Italian, but had a wide price range. Nice outside patio. Service was excellent. A bit noisy at the inside seating. Lamb bocconcini (\$18) was a good appetizer – lamb was medium rare, mushroom cappelletti (\$20) was a smaller sized portion that tasted excellent, Bucatini (\$19) was fennel sausage with tubular noodles and an oil based sauce – very nice.  
<https://www.italianeatery.com/>

612-223-8504

### **India Palace**

2570 Cleveland Avenue North (Roseville)

Indian, buffet lunch (\$11), lamb. Dinner is the better value.  
[www.indiapalacemn.com](http://www.indiapalacemn.com)

651-631-1222

### **Ingredients Cafe**

4725 Hwy. 61 (White Bear Lake)

\$9-\$20, jeans. Small wine list (12-15 wines), but all are ½ price on Sunday and Monday. Menu ranges from salads and sandwiches to crab cakes, pasta, sea food, steak and rice bowls. Good desserts. All meals come with bread and dipping sauce. Outdoor seating.  
[www.ingredientscafe.com](http://www.ingredientscafe.com)

651-426-6611

### **Jax Cafe**

1928 University Ave NE (Minneapolis)

\$20-\$30, business casual, jeans okay, some outside dining overlooking a flower garden and fish pond, mostly steak, lobster was \$40 for 1 1/2 pounds, average number of menu choices, small and expensive wine list, below average service, Internet rates this \*\*\*\*\* but I would only rate it average, a poor value, Sunday brunch (\$18).

612-789-7297



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Khan's**

2720 N. Snelling Ave (Roseville)

jeans, Mongolian Barbecue, prepare your own plate of beef, chicken, shrimp, lamb, vegetables and assorted spices and sauces, the cooks heat it up by stir frying it. When busy, you may wait 5 minutes or more to have your selection heated.

651-631-3398

### **Kindee Thai**

719 2nd Street South (Minneapolis)

\$10-\$15, Thai. Some outdoor seating. Across the street from the Guthrie. Good food, small and expensive wine list – have a beer instead.

612-465-8303

### Kincaid's Fish, Chop and Steak House

380 St. Peter Street (St. Paul)

\$14-\$28, downtown, prime rib, lamb, seafood, supposedly nice ambience, but not the best food.

651-602-9000

### **Kyber Pass Café** (Closed)

1571 Grand Ave. (St. Paul)

\$8 lunch, jeans, Afghan food, lamb, curry, small lunch buffet, canned soda, some wine, lunch was good, but lamb was not very flavorful

651-690-0505



## Minnesota Restaurants

### La Casita

1925 Perimeter Rd (Roseville)

\$9-\$13, Mexican, jeans, Ultimate margarita \$11, 651-287-4055  
good service, okay food, rice was a bit hard – probably been sitting under a heat lamp, nice decor

### La Grolla

452 Selby Ave. (St. Paul)

\$14-\$38, casual, romantic Italian bistro, excellent 651-221-1061  
Italian food, large menu selection of pastas, chicken, veal, seafood, beef, lamb. Good dessert selections – crème brulee, chocolate mousse, chocolate soufflé, tiramisu. The crab cake appetizer was unique and tasted excellent. We had two of the specials – lobster sauce pasta with three of the largest prawns I've ever seen (\$22) and a superb rack of lamb. The lamb was simmered in a wonderful cabernet reduction sauce and topped with fresh rosemary – very tender – one of the best I've ever had. A bit pricey at \$38, but it was the largest rack I've ever had as well – 8 chops. Nice selection of moderately priced (\$25-\$55) Italian wines. We ate dinner on the patio which was very pleasant and quieter than the main dining area. Service was good although we waited a bit for our wine to arrive and our appetizer had already been served. Overall, a great meal. 2018 update – lamb was still very good, but not as much Rosemary. Jan had fettucine and said it was great!  
<https://www.la-grolla.com/>



**Minnesota Restaurants**

**Lake Elmo Inn**

3442 Lake Elmo Ave N (Lake Elmo)

\$17-\$40, a-la-carter menu, salads \$6, dessert \$7, large varied menu, rack of lamb, lamb curry, duck, prime rib, filet, seafood, ostrich, good appetizer selection, sorbet, after dinner chocolate covered strawberry, hot hand towel, in season outdoor dining, brunch, casual, service could be a bit better. 2009 note – prices are more than in the past, (two dinners, 1 appetizer, 1 dessert, 2 coffees, 1 bottle of wine was \$124) and not as good of a value any longer – but still good food. The champagne brunch (\$18 plus coffee) was nothing special. The food (ham, beef, shrimp, sausages, chicken, desserts) was good, but nothing extraordinary. A small selection of omelets are included, but you must ask for these from your wait person and they are made in the kitchen. Great for dinner, but not worth the trip for brunch. Wine Spectator award winner (moderate \$). 651-777-8495

**Lexington (The)**

1096 Grand Avenue (St. Paul)

Steaks. Restaurant dates back to 1935. Roof top patio bar with very limited food menu. <https://thelexmn.com> 651-222-5878

**Lindsey's Prime Steak House**

3600 Snelling Ave N (Arden Hills)

\$24-\$28, steak and only steak – 3 choices, the Lindsey’s special prime cut was very good and full of flavor, a full pound of tender beef cooked as desired, excellent sides of sage flavored potatoes and garlic bread, jeans, shorts, etc., very casual in a ‘cabin’ motif, no frills, beef cut daily, \$70 with tip and two beverages. Coupons for dining discounts: [www.restaurant.com](http://www.restaurant.com) 651-633-9813



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Little Venetian

2900 Rice Street (Little Canada)

\$7-\$12, Jeans, home cooked Italian, spaghetti, pizza, large portions, inexpensive. 651-486-7719  
Various nightly specials (turkey, pork, prime rib, beef stroganoff).  
Small, but inexpensive wine list.  
Nothing fancy at all, but food was good and a good value. Offers catering services.

### Lord Fletcher's

3746 Sunset Drive (Spring Park)

\$18-\$25, some outdoor dining in a screened in porch, overlooks lake harbor, small menu, large wine list, poor service, average food, reservations, 45 minute ride. 952-471-8513  
Wine Spectator award winner (moderate \$).

### Loring Grill

1614 Harmon Place (Minneapolis)

\$15-\$20, a-la-carte menu, small menu selection 3-4 selections each of beef, chicken, seafood, pasta. 612-339-6700  
Excellent values in wines by the bottle. Small seating area - about 5 tables along the window on the lower level , and another 16 or so tables in the dimly lit section upstairs. The Chilean sea bass was good, but the leg of lamb was tough. The crab cake appetizer was the worst that I've ever eaten. You could smell the fishiness when it arrived at the table. I did not finish the appetizer and complained to the waiter about the quality. Kudos to the professionalism of the waiter for crediting my bill for this unacceptable item. Good dessert, average service (waiter never poured more than the first glass of wine). Good value, but food and service was sub-par. Validated parking in lot under bridge and lot next to Joe's Garage.  
[www.loringgrill.com](http://www.loringgrill.com)



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Luci Ancora

2060 Randolph Avenue (St. Paul)

\$16-\$32, casual. Small, comfortable restaurant with good Northern Italian cuisine. Varied menu, good quality wine list. Excellent pasta. Short ribs with pasta and fettucine were excellent. A tad smaller portions than many restaurants, but the prices are lower, too. Service was excellent. 12/23/22 – mushroom ravioli was excellent, lamb ragu pasta was nothing special – very little lamb, but the lamb meatball appetizer was excellent. Ask for dipping oil if not served with the fresh, homemade bread. Small patio, Reservations. Closed Monday and Tuesday. <http://luciancora.com/> 651-698-6889

### Mac's Fish and Chips

Larpenteur and Hamline (St. Paul)

fish (halibut, walleye, cod), chicken, shrimp, cheese curds, nice light batter, mostly carry out, but a small dine in area. \$6.50-\$12 for a basket – depending on the type of fish you wish. Split a basket and add an extra piece of fish when feeding two. <http://www.macsfishchipsstrips.com/> 651-489-5299

### Machine Shed

8515 Hudson Boulevard (Lake Elmo)

Go here for the all you can eat Fish Fry (\$13.49) – cod. Lightly beer battered fish was excellent – light batter with good size pieces of fish. You get great warm biscuits, coleslaw, warm apples in sauce, fries/potatoes and veggies. Décor is plain with some booths and simple, black tables. Good family sport. 651-735-7436



## Minnesota Restaurants

**Mama's** (Closed)

961 Rice Street (St. Paul)

\$7-\$15, Pizza and pasta. Small dining room of about 10 tables and booths – very casual. Good spaghetti – nice sweet sauce (Tuesday – all you can eat - \$8). Lots of toppings on the pizza, nice, crisp crust. A couple of red wines and small selection of beer. Great, great value.

651-489-2005

[www.mamaspizzaparlor.com](http://www.mamaspizzaparlor.com)

**Mancini's Char House**

531 7<sup>th</sup> St W (St Paul)

\$15-\$22, \$37 lobster/steak combo, jeans, steak and lobster, dancing and live music on Thursdays. Very large steak house. Quick service, small menu – steak, chicken, lobster. Filets were not very flavorful – the taste was mostly from the char grilling. A few, average wine choices – all under \$30 a bottle. Large rooms for banquets, etc. Better choices available for steak than here.

651-224-7345



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Manger Restaurant and Wine bar

320 5th Ave. N. (Bayport)

\$11-\$34 casual, wood fired pizza, duck, seafood, burgers. Small patio. Closed Sunday, Monday.

651-324-9313

We ate here on a pleasant, summer evening and were lucky to nab a table on the back patio.

There are about 5 tables in the quiet, backyard patio and 3 tables out front along the quiet Bayport street.

The inside seating allows you to watch the chef prepare your meals.

The menu selection had something for everyone - it was tough to decide on which items to choose.

Since this is a wine bar, we started with a 3 glass, red wine flight (\$15) of an Oregon Pinot, a Rhone Syrah, and a Napa cab - all good choices.

They also offer a nice selection of red and white wines by the bottle.

I started with the Steak Tartare appetizer (\$15) and Jan had the Caesar salad (\$6). Both were tasty and a good start to the meal.

For our main course, I had the duck breast (\$28) and Jan had the Steak Frites (Filet mignon - \$34).

The duck and the accompanying mushrooms (confit morels) were excellent. I never had mushrooms like that and they were some of the tastiest ones I have ever eaten. Jan loved the filet, although the center was a tad underdone. I think it was about 12 ounces. The fries were hand cut and were excellent - just the right crispiness.

We shared a chocolate ganache tart for dessert (\$8) that was very good and not too sweet.

We finished off an excellent meal with two glasses of a ruby port.

Service was excellent - just the right pace.

A tad on the expensive side, but definitely worth the 25 minute ride from the cities.

Second review 7/16/20 – would not go back again.





## Minnesota Restaurants

They no longer offer wine flights and then had only about 12 different red wines on the menu – far too few choices for a place that has “wine bar” in its name. The wine we chose, was an excellent pinot from Willamette Valley. The wait staff provided no insight into the wines either.

The menu is still small, and there was no appetizer or entree that interested me – a first for me as I am not too picky. So, I had the pizza. The pizza was brick oven made and was pretty good, but was light on the toppings. My wife had the stake frites (same as last time). It was still very good and cooked just right this time. The patio is very nice and relaxing. Service was very good and the food timing was good as well. Overall, not bad if you live close by, but no longer worth the long drive for us.

[www.mangerrestaurant.com](http://www.mangerrestaurant.com)

### **Mansetti’s Pizza & Pasta**

3999 Rice Street (Shoreview)

Have not yet had pizza here. Pan available. Good spaghetti. Lots of pasta choices.

651-483-5125

### **Marla's Caribbean Cuisine** (Closed)

3761 Bloomington Ave S. (Minneapolis)

Most items \$13 or less, appetizers \$3-\$4, Trinidad and Tobago cuisine, jerk chicken was spicy as stated – very good, best red beans and rice I ever had, curry dishes, Rotis, other Trini dishes like Pelau, no liquor, superb value, small dining room. Closed Sunday/Monday. May close after lunch and re-open at 5pm for dinner. They also close for private parties – so always call before going for dinner.

612-724-3088

[www.marlascuisine.com](http://www.marlascuisine.com)



## Minnesota Restaurants

Martina

4312 South Upton Ave. (Minneapolis)

\$17-\$35, Argentinian-inspired cuisine to the Linden Hills neighborhood of Minneapolis. You'll find an array of seafoods and meats, as well as other delicious plates cooked over a wood-fire grill in an energetic, warm environment.  
[www.martinarestaurant.com](http://www.martinarestaurant.com)

612-922-9913



## Meritage

### Minnesota Restaurants

410 St. Peter (St. Paul)

Business casual-dressy. \$22-\$39. French bistro. Menu is seasonal and changes monthly. Rabbit, venison, Ricotta filled gnocchi, coq au vin, lamb, duck, pork, scallops, striped bass, quail, not many wines under \$40, but a number under \$50. Patio. Tasting menus available – 5 course (\$75), 7 course (\$90), 9 course (\$105), wine pairings \$30 for the 5 course, \$50 for the 7 course, and \$65 for the 9 course. Valet parking on Fri/Sat (\$10).

651-222-5670

Fantastic food and service. We had a fantastic 7 course meal with the wine pairing. Course 1 included sourdough bread and three small appetizers – gazpacho (very good), tiny tuna tartar taco (good) and lamb bacon – unique and fantastic. Course 2 was a tasty pistachio crusted foie gras. Course 3 was an amazing, melt in your mouth organic Scottish salmon in a spinach puree with artichokes. Course 4 was an excellent, tender and tasty Iowa lamb chop with lamb stuffed baby bell peppers, chickpeas, fennel tomato confit and black olive oil. Course 5 was a prime NY strip au poivre – tasty, but not too spicy. Course 6 was a cheese course of three cheeses we selected from about six that were presented to us tableside. Course 7 was of course dessert – a small cup of an espresso type pudding, Izzy's chocolate covered dollop of vanilla ice cream, and a chocolate cream puff. All wine pairings were very good to excellent.

The chef stopped by our table at least twice to check how our meals were progressing, and the overall service was excellent. The dining room was a bit loud, and they have a small patio along St. Peter street. Our new favorite restaurant!

<http://www.meritage-stpaul.com>



## Mickey's Diner

### Minnesota Restaurants

36 7th St W (St. Paul - near the "X")

\$2-\$10, jeans, old time dining car with about 6 booths and a number of stools at the counter. All day menu of breakfast, burgers, etc. Typical diner fare. We visited during the Winter Carnival, so perhaps that is the reason the service was horrible. There was one waitress, two cooks and two kitchen crew for the whole restaurant. Everyone seemed to be able to handle the load except the waitress. It seemed like she could manage no more than one task at a time. Our beverages were not even refilled, and the waitress apologized to others paying their bill that she forgot their beverages altogether. Burgers were very good. I really wanted their mulligan stew, but they were out of that. Probably a great place to stop if you've one too many and wish some time to sober up. Not worth a return trip. 651-222-5633



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Moscow on the Hill**

371 Selby Ave. (St. Paul)

A true ethnic restaurant with many menu choices. 651-291-1236

Entrees are in the \$14-\$25 range. A truly Russian menu, large selection of appetizers (borscht, caviar, pirogi) and entrees (lamb/beef kabobs, chicken, pork). Czar's Medallions (pork) was excellent. Good selection of salads as a main course and desserts (blini, truffles, Russian Tiramisu). Large portions.

If you like vodka or martinis, then you will have many to choose from. A small, but reasonably priced wine list.

Don't miss the outdoor patio (shaded).

Overall a great value.

About \$60 for two - plus drinks.

You can find free parking at the corner of Marshall Ave. and Virginia Street.

[www.moscowonthehill.com](http://www.moscowonthehill.com)

### **Namaste India Grill & Brouhouse**

3673 Lexington Ave N (Arden Hills)

\$12-\$18, casual.

651-330-6522

10/27/20 - tried lamb curry - nothing special

Lots of good comments. Has lamb dishes.

[www.namasteindiamn.net](http://www.namasteindiamn.net)



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Nicollet Island Inn

95 Merriam Street (Minneapolis)

Goof for brunch, but not for dinner.

612-331-1800

The champagne brunch (\$26) was excellent. It included prime rib, ham, turkey, pork loin, eggs Benedict, lots of dessert and bakery choices, shrimp, made to order omelets, crepes, potatoes and more. The dining room has a nice view overlooking a small part of the Mississippi River.

Dinner was very good, but far too expensive. Beef Tornados were \$37 and many of the other entrees were in the upper \$20s and low \$30s.

The wine was also very, very expensive. Perhaps they had to raise the cost because of their sommelier. In one case, a bottle of wine that I have purchased for \$17 was listed as \$65!! Hardly any wines under \$40 a bottle.

Wine Spectator award winner (moderate \$).

### Nightingale

2551 Lyndale Av. S (Minneapolis)

\$8-\$29, casual, Lamb, meatballs, duck, burgers, calamari

612-354-7060

<http://nightingalempls.com/>

[www.facebook.com/nightingalempls](http://www.facebook.com/nightingalempls)

### Nook

492 Hamline Ave S (St. Paul)

\$6-\$12, large selection of burgers including juicy Lucy, sweet potato fries, about seating for 60 at tables inside a small bar, large beer selection, usually busy – 20-30 minute wait possible

651-698-4347

[www.crnook.com](http://www.crnook.com)



**Nova** (Closed)

## Minnesota Restaurants

236 Coulee Road (Hudson, WI)

\$13-\$32, Wine bar and restaurant, chicken, lamb, curry, tuna, burgers, steak, jambalaya

715-386-5333

What a nice relaxing and fun place to dine and wine.

We sat outside on the wonderful patio. The patio was relaxing and not cramped, and on Friday and Saturday, they have live music outside. On this night, there was a guitar player who played a nice variety of music.

The inside seating had white table cloths and looked to be very cute and quaint with Tiffany lamps, nice large, decorative rugs on the floor and a warm décor with some antique pieces, old snow shoes and skis on the ceiling.

They do have a great wine list by the bottle as well as a number of wines you can get (\$12) in a wine flight – choose three - 2.5 ounce pours.

We shared one wine flight to decide on what bottle we would then have with our meal. They have a lot of reasonably priced wines, but also have some higher end options if you wish to celebrate in that fashion.

They also have some tropical drinks and a large option of whiskeys by the glass.

We started with the Gyro Sliders appetizer (\$10). The lamb/beef combination was served on naan and was very tasty – nice with a Shiraz or Zin.

Jan had the tri-tip medallions (\$24) which were 3 large, tender tri tips served with BBQ sauce on the side. The portion was large and seemed to be flavored with Rosemary. I had the breast of lamb (\$21) – a nice portion of the breast cooked just right – just enough of the fat to make it very tasty.

We shared a chocolate dessert and glass of ruby port to finish the night.

Service was a tad slow on a busy Saturday night, but the server was very gracious and up front about his tardiness. Gave us more time to sip our wine and listen to the nice music.

7/24/19 – Jan-swordfish, David-curry scallops

No reservations. **Closed Sunday/Monday.**

[www.thenovaofhudson.com](http://www.thenovaofhudson.com)

**RED = excellent**

**GREEN = good**

**BLACK = visited**

6/2/2024

Page 31



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Oceanaire Seafood Room**

50 S. Sixth Street (Minneapolis)

a-la-carte, \$23-\$39 entrees, \$9-\$15 appetizers, seafood, business casual, excellent crab cake, menu changes daily according to what's available, large - varied selection, most wine above \$60, large side dishes and desserts, service could have been a bit more attentive, reservations necessary. Wine Spectator award winner (moderate \$). Top 10 in Minneapolis according to Zagat. [www.theoceanaire.com](http://www.theoceanaire.com)

612-333-2277

### **Old Southern BBQ**

Various locations (ate at Arden Hills)

Famous Dave Andersen's new BBQ joint. Ribs, chicken, brisket, pulled pork. Most items are not cooked in sauce, you have to add that. Jan liked pulled pork, brisket was pretty good. Nothing special, though.

Olio

338 5th Ave N (Bayport)

\$17-\$26, Italian – new in 2023  
Closed Tuesday  
<https://oliobayport.com>





## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Oliver's**

159 Grass Lake Place (Hodgson and Hwy 694)

\$15-\$30, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, pizza, burgers, tacos, pork chops, rib-eye (\$46), catch of the day. Excellent food and service. We each tried a burger – very tasty and we liked the rosemary fries and homemade ketchup.

Various types of seating – tables, booths, high top, counter and a couple of “casual” spots with cushy chairs/sofas.

A decent wine list, but on the expensive side.

Quite a few craft beers – some on tap and some in bottles.

Definitely worth another visit.

[www.olivers-shoreview.com](http://www.olivers-shoreview.com)

### **Ol Mexico** (Closed)

1754 Lexington Ave. N (Roseville)

Mexican, \$8-\$15, jeans, lunch buffet, after work buffet, good margaritas 651-487-2847

### **Outback Steakhouse**

1770 Beam (Maplewood)

\$18-\$26, Casual, jeans okay, usually a long wait, chicken, steak, shrimp, prime rib, seafood

### **Panda Garden Buffet**

1706 North Lexington Ave. (Roseville)

\$12 for the good Chinese lunch buffet including beverage and dessert. Great value. 651-488-5505

### **Panino's**

857 Village Center Drive (North Oaks)

\$7-\$11, casual, Italian, many sandwich choices, pasta, pizza, outside seating, average service, casual setting, also see pizza section for review 651-486-0296



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **PorterHouse Steaks and Seafood**

235 E. Little Canada Road (Little Canada)

One of our favorite places for a nice juicy (Angus) steak. Prices are not cheap, but the cost is more reasonable than some of the big fancy names in the Cities and the quality is excellent – plus you get salad, vegetables and potatoes included. Lots of great steak choices, a couple of shrimp and walleye choices and always 1 or 2 daily specials. They also have surf and turf (\$37-\$45) combinations. I love their blackened tenderloin tip appetizer. Service was average to above average (depending on how busy it is). They have a small but reasonably priced wine list. Reservations recommended on most nights. They also have a small bar area for less intimate dining.

651-483-9248

Definitely one of the best in the northern burbs.  
[www.porterhousesteakandseafood.com](http://www.porterhousesteakandseafood.com)

### **Prima Italian Restaurant**

5325 Lyndale Ave S (Minneapolis)

\$18-\$24, Italian, casual, jeans/shorts okay, very good, Fusilli with Italian Sausage was excellent, nice dipping oil, good calamari, small wine list, good service, small seating area - some tables - mostly counter seats, some patio tables.  
<http://primampls.com/>

612-827-7376

Red Cow

393 Selby Avenue (St. Paul)  
208 1st Ave N (Minneapolis)

Fish N Chips (\$15.50), supposed to have great burgers.



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Red Ginger Bistro

5999 Rice Creek Pkwy (Shoreview)

\$10-\$12, Asian, Sesame chicken was not crispy, Curry chicken had pea pods, small portion of rice, food was served quickly, but staff was not very attentive, bar area was noisy and smoky, dirty carpet. Not worth traveling the distance. 651-784-8800

### Red Oak

566 Lilac Street (35W and Cty. Road 23 - Lino Lakes)

\$14-\$29, casual (jeans okay). Steak (angus), fresh specials like quail and swordfish, nice menu selection, varied wine selection, but a bit on the expensive side – not too many below \$30. Nice atmosphere, but bar area can be loud. Service was slow and we were not served our bread. Filet mignon was good, but a bit undercooked for medium. NY Strip was tough. Closed Sunday. ½ priced wine on Mondays. 651-294-0007

### Red Robin

1090 Gramsie Road (Shoreview)

\$7-\$15, jeans, focus is on burgers, great mud pie. Margaritas were too weak. 651-766-8417  
[www.redrobin.com](http://www.redrobin.com)



## Revival

### Minnesota Restaurants

525 Selby Avenue (St. Paul)  
4257 Nicollet Ave. (Minneapolis) - (Closed)

\$10-\$19, Southern. Patio in St. Paul. Chicken, BBQ Brisket. No reservations.

651-340-2355

612-345-4516

We arrived at 6:45pm on a Saturday evening expecting to wait, but we were immediately seated on the patio (which is where we asked to be seated). There was at least one other table open on the patio and some availability inside as well. The patio is lovely and had some music playing softly in the background.

We did have to park about two blocks away on a neighbored side street, but that is expected in this neighborhood.

Our waitress greeted us and brought some bottled (tap) water. She was very attentive and provide good service.

We ordered the dry rubbed wings (\$12) as an appetizer.

They were full sized wings with a rub that really was nothing special. A good way for them to sell the most undesirable piece of chicken – too bad it was disappointing.

We both had the Southern Fried, two piece, dark chicken (\$9) as our main course with shared sides of corn bread (\$5) and bourbon carrots (\$5).

The bourbon carrots were excellent and were the best part of the meal. Corn bread was fine and the chicken was fine as well. Chicken was moist, but the breading/skin was really disappointing after reading all of the good comments. The breading was crunchy, but not much flavor and nothing to make this chicken stand out. Certainly not worth the price or the hype (maybe that was why we did not have to wait on a Saturday evening?).

The main course came far too early. We had not even finished our appetizer when we received the main course. Chicken stays hot, so not too much of a problem except too many dishes on the table.

They did not give you wet wipes or anything other than the cloth table napkin to wipe your hands at the end of the meal, but they had nice wash cloths to use for this purpose in the bathrooms.

Loved the patio, but the food does not deserve another visit from us.

<https://www.revivalfriedchicken.com/>



## Minnesota Restaurants

### **Ruam Mit Thai Cafe**

475 St. Peter Street (St. Paul)

\$8-\$14, jeans, Thai, nothing fancy here, just good Thai, chicken curry was excellent – lots of real, fresh pieces of meat, slow and un-attentive service, while eating lunch I saw a wrong order given at the pickup counter, another order that was 30 minutes late and countless diners asking for a refill on their beverages. Better have some time to spare for lunch here.

651-290-0067

### **Rudy's Redeye Grill**

4940 N. Hwy 61 (White Bear Lake)

\$16-\$32, casual, focus is on steaks – lots of tasty choices, bull bites, some seafood including jumbo shrimp, pork and chicken. Good service, average wine list, but most under \$50. Roof top patio. The patio only serves a small portion of the menu – a better choice for a burger and a beer. ½ priced wine on Mondays.  
[www.rudysredeye.com](http://www.rudysredeye.com)

651-653-6718

### **Ruth's Chris**

920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (Minneapolis)

\$\$\$\$, dressy casual, excellent filet, large lobsters, large side dishes. Valet parking available. Wine Spectator award winner (moderate \$).



## Minnesota Restaurants

### San Pedro Cafe

426 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Hudson, WI)

\$14-\$26, casual, Caribbean themed based on Ambergris Caye, snapper, grouper, scallops, jerk chicken, shrimp, a number of wines under \$50, two tiered patio. Crab/lobster cakes are good and the coconut snapper is excellent (better than the grouper). A neat selection of fire-baked pizzas (\$12) as well. Excellent menu – good service. Very tasty and uniquely prepared food, good desserts. One time Jan had the Cuban meatloaf and really loved it. Snapper with curry was a huge piece of fish, but the breading was too much and the curry over powered the fish. One of our favorites.

715-386-4003

Parking in a lot behind the restaurant.

[www.sanpedrocafe.com](http://www.sanpedrocafe.com)

Get in line virtually via their website.

### Sawatdee

607 Washington Avenue (Minneapolis)  
486 Robert St N (St. Paul)

\$9-\$16, Thai, casual, large menu selection, Sarong Sawatdee special is an excellent appetizer, unlike many Asian restaurants - they do not hold back on the spice, medium spicy was hot enough for me, tropical drinks.

### Sea Change (Closed)

806 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (at the Guthrie)

\$20-\$29, casual, some patio dining, focus is on sea food, raw bar, beef tenderloin, duck, meals are all a-la-carte, not many wines under \$50, good food and good service, but nothing spectacular and with the high wine prices – not really worth a repeat performance.

612-225-6499

[www.seachangempls.com](http://www.seachangempls.com)



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Sea Salt Eatery

4825 Minnehaha Ave South (Minneapolis)

\$8-\$16, Jeans, shorts, Seafood, fish tacos, gumbo. 612-721-8990  
Only open April-October. Food from Coastal Seafoods. Outdoor dining. Can be a wait for a table.  
Mostly seafood choices. Lunch place – mostly sandwiches and baskets/plates. Beer and some wine. Food only okay.  
Parking costs \$.75 per hour – lot is small.  
[www.seasalteatery.wordpress.com](http://www.seasalteatery.wordpress.com)

### Siam Thai

3547 Lexington Ave. N. (Arden Hills)

\$12-\$18, casual, Thai 651-481-8100  
<https://siamthaimn.com/>

### Smack Shack

603 Washington Ave. N (Minneapolis)

\$15-\$50, specialty is live Maine lobsters. Fresh 612-338-0062  
each day from 1 ½ pounds to 6 pound monsters.  
Large dining area – two floors and a patio. Nautical theme. Very good service, good drink/wine/beer prices, but the lobster is expensive – probably no more than anywhere else, but at \$24.95 per pound – this is an expensive dinner. The smallest lobsters are 1 ½ pounds. For \$28.95/pound, you get the following sides – and lots of them – polish sausage, boiled red potatoes, corn on the cob, grilled toast, coleslaw.  
We prefer getting our own lobster at Coastal and having it with our own butter – the butter they served with the lobster has some spices in it and detracts from the meal. A nice treat, but probably will not go back. Valet (\$5).  
<http://smack-shack.com/>



## Minnesota Restaurants

**Spaghetti Factory** (Closed)

233 Park Ave. (Minneapolis)

\$10-\$15, casual, very good spaghetti, lasagna, large dining room, great for groups and children, small wine list but great prices, great value overall.

612-341-0949

**Spoon River** (Closed)

750 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Minneapolis)

\$15-\$27, casual, steak, lamb, duck, pasta, seafood, many wines under \$40, some patio dining along the street.

Small dining room – tables a bit too close and a bit too noisy. Entrees were nicely presented, but \$27 for sea bass – is just too expensive – especially when all items are a-la-carte and bread is an extra \$2. Desserts were also overpriced at \$10.

Service was inattentive – the staff that delivered the food courses paid more attention to us than our server. Great burgers. The Spoon burger (lamb with Moroccan spices) was the best burger I ever had – tasty, moist and a great bun). [www.spoonriver.com](http://www.spoonriver.com)





## Spoon and Stable

### Minnesota Restaurants

211 1<sup>st</sup> Street North (Minneapolis)

\$18-\$30, casual décor, pasta, duck, seafood, pork, James Beard award winning chef from NY, mostly great reviews, just opened in late 2014, valet parking \$6. Not sure what the fuss is all about – nothing to truly make this stand out from other good restaurants in town. All in all okay, but nothing to match the hype – maybe that is why I did not have trouble getting a reservation? The evening started off on the wrong foot with it taking about 7 minutes for us to get our menus after being seated for a 6pm reservation on a Sunday. Our chosen wine was not the vintage shown on the menu. When are higher end restaurants going to get up to date and get their wine lists on an electronic device so the vintages can be kept up to date! I had researched the wine list before arriving and the different vintage was disappointing. Both our appetizers were well presented and very good – the English pea soup (\$9) was tasty and was a brilliant green color – not sure I have seen such a new color to a pea soup before, the bison tartare (\$16) was excellent – very tender and full of flavor. My wife had the swordfish (\$29) which came with basmati rice, roasted peppers, eggplant, cashew nuts all bathed in a coconut broth. I was able to steal a taste of her entrée and it was one of the best swordfish steaks I have ever eaten – so flavorful and tender – it really melted in your mouth. I wish I had had the swordfish – instead, I had the grilled lamb (\$29) which was two medallions of lamb. I love a good lamb dish and my – was this one disappointing – the sauce/accompaniments did nothing to bring out the flavor of the lamb – disappointing. For dessert we shared the crème brulee (\$10). The granola was an excellent choice as part of the dish, but the crème brulee itself was disappointing in flavor. All in all, an okay meal and average service, but not worth a return visit.

612-224-9850

[www.spoonandstable.com](http://www.spoonandstable.com)



## Minnesota Restaurants

**Stella's Fish Café** (Closed)

1400 W. Lake Street (Minneapolis)

\$17-\$26, jeans, best seafood selection in the cities - 612-824-8862  
Cajun, lobster, swordfish, grouper, mahi-mahi, halibut, crab cakes, crab legs, shrimp Creole, jambalaya, oyster bar, roof top dining (great view of city), no wine list to speak of – have a beer! Margaritas were weak. Valet parking \$7 or parking garage across the street. No reservations – can be a long wait for an outdoor table.  
[www.stellasfishcafe.com](http://www.stellasfishcafe.com)

**Stout's Pub**

1611 West Larpentour Avenue (Falcon Heights)

\$7-\$22, pub sandwiches, wood fired pizzas, limited 651-789-8888  
full dinner appetizers and entrees, small wine selection, nice selection of beer, patio  
[www.stoutspub.com](http://www.stoutspub.com)



## Minnesota Restaurants

**Swirl**

3291 S. St. Croix Trail (Afton)

\$12-\$24, casual, wine bar, small plates and a few dinner entrees, in the Afton Inn, some outside seating (but no lights on the patio), a couple of by the glass choices, and a number of very reasonably priced bottles of wine. They have no printed wine menu or any comments or ratings about the wines. You need to view the bottles in the racks along the walls. I used the Vino app to get some reviews on wines I have not tried before. Server had little knowledge about the wines, and service was horribly slow on a Wednesday night when we dined. I had the short ribs (fall apart tender) and Jan had the chicken salad – large and tasty. We saw others who ordered some huge and tasty looking flatbreads.

If there were more choices by the glass or tasting notes, and if the service was better, this would definitely be worth the drive from the Twin Cities.

**Tara Hideaway**

15021 North 60<sup>th</sup> Street (Stillwater)

\$12-\$27, casual/jeans, Mediterranean (Greek) inspired menu. Huge menu with steaks, lamb, pasta, burgers and seafood. Good selection of wines. Decor is similar to a Northwoods log cabin. Noisy and tight quarters, but excellent food. No reservations are accepted. Small, outdoor patio. Closed Monday.

651-439-9850

[www.tarahideaway.com](http://www.tarahideaway.com)

Taste of Thailand

7890 University Ave NE (Fridley)  
1669 Selby Ave. (St. Paul)

Thai

763-571-1188

**RED = excellent**

**GREEN = good**

**BLACK = visited**



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Tavern Grill

3561 Lexington Ave N (Arden Hills) \$11-\$19, Bar and grill with outside patio. Bar has about 5 TVs. Ask for a seat outside the bar area for a more quiet location. 651-478-4450

Excellent menu – lots of choices including build your own burger, salad, pizza or Bloody Mary. Steaks, pasta and even a couple of seafood choices (mahi-mahi, tuna, salmon, fish tacos). Sunday brunch (\$16). Monday – all you can eat fish fry (cod). No wine list to speak of. Small, but good selection of beers and a number of mixed drinks plus a full bar.

Good: cheese curds, sliders, tacos  
Not so good: Reuben, New Orleans Tchoupitoulas  
Can get online waitlist 30 minutes prior to arrival.  
[www.thetaverngrill.com](http://www.thetaverngrill.com)

### Tavern on Grand

656 Grand Ave (St. Paul) \$8-\$30, jeans, pub fare, best walleye around. Been here numerous times - the walleye is always great. 651-228-9030

It is Canadian walleye prepared a number of ways. I prefer the standard grilled fillet - excellent – moist, tender and flavorful. Just falls apart on your fork.

I also liked the blackened, grilled fillet - not too spicy and just as tender.

You can get the two fillet portion, but the fillets are large and one will suffice for most folks.

Good potato cakes, and fries.

Large selection of beers - a couple of wine choices.

Good service.

Parking in rear when street is full.  
[www.tavernongrand.com](http://www.tavernongrand.com)



## Tenant

### Minnesota Restaurants

4300 Bryant Ave. (Minneapolis)

\$60 for 6 courses. Wine pairing \$30. Reservations 612-827-8111 required. Meal takes about 90 minutes. Closed Sunday and Monday. Seating for 16-20 guests plus 6 at the counter. Tasty and unique items, but wine is limited to the 3 accompanying wines they choose for the meal – usually two whites and a red. They were okay, but it would be nice to offer bottle service as well. Portions were the typical small tasting size. Service was excellent and the items were served at a great pace. Not too fast and not too slow. On the evening we dined, we had the following items – all were very good to excellent. Tuna crudo, shrimp cocktail with a Mexican pepper and celery, light tomato based broth with scallions shiitake mushrooms and zucchini, pumpkin and beef ravioli stuffed with chicken and a quail egg, mashed potatoes - braised lamb, sauerkraut and chives, a raspberry slushy before the last course of peach custard. On street parking. <http://tenantmpls.com/>



## **Travail Kitchen and Amusements**

### **Minnesota Restaurants**

4124 West Broadway (Robbinsdale)

\$50-\$95 All tasting menu – 10 dishes and 10 “amusements” 763-535-1131

They now take reservations (they are only open Wednesday-Saturday). Seating is communal.

They also offer a chef’s table for 6 people. They also offer a small “Spotlight” dining area that seats 16 people along a bar that surrounds the kitchen for that dining area. One of their chefs runs that area for 2 months and chooses what they wish to make – 7-10 course tasting. \$50 per person.

[www.travailkitchen.com](http://www.travailkitchen.com)



**Tria**

## Minnesota Restaurants

5959 Centerville Road (North Oaks)

\$15-\$30, a-la-carte menu, casual. 651-426-9222

### First Visit

Small, but varied menu. A number of items change on a seasonal basis or as the freshest ingredients are available. The fillets of beef (two half-dollar sized pieces - \$32) were tender, but could have been a bit more flavorful. The fresh, seafood special (peppered tuna - \$19) was excellent and was a decent sized portion. About a half dozen good desserts. We had the hazelnut crème brulee and chocolate torte. Great coffee. Service was poor. We had to sit in the bar area even though there were other tables available – seemed like they had not planned for the larger number of diners on a Sunday evening.

### Second Visit

A new chef is on staff and the menu has been expanded. A nice choice of appetizers (good crab cakes) scallops, calamari, salads. Excellent entrée choices of steaks, chicken seafood and specials. We both had coq au vin. The portion was huge – a ½ chicken was served in its cooking pot. Chicken was very moist and tender – very good.

Better wine list this time – many under \$45. Service better this time as well.

Overall a good dining experience.

Some patio dining is available.

Large, wood burning fireplace for the main dining room.

Visit the week during your birthday and receive a discount on select wines equal to your age.

[www.triarestaurant.com](http://www.triarestaurant.com)

**RED = excellent**

6/2/2024

**GREEN = good**

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## Minnesota Restaurants

### Union

731 Hennepin Av. S. (Minneapolis)

\$23-\$30, large roof top outdoor patio with sliding roof. Chicken, seafood, steak, pasta. Lamb meatballs appetizer (\$14) had six small meatballs and very good. Sea bass and ravioli (meatless) were okay – nothing special, but not bad. Service was very good, Nice wine list with about 30 reds and almost half under \$60. Desserts average. When the roof is closed, it is very noisy. Valet parking \$8. Go here for the patio, not for the food.  
[www.unionmpls.com](http://www.unionmpls.com)

612-455-6690

**Urban Growler Brewery** 2325 Endicott St. (St. Paul)

Walleye fish fry on Friday \$20, other bar food available.  
Fish fry was ok, a bit overdone, not worth the high price.  
Liked the Dock Dover Golden ale, but liked the Cowbell Cream ale more.  
Lots of outdoor seating including a “beer garden” where some live music was playing on a Friday night.  
On the street parking. Closed Monday and Tuesday.  
<http://www.urbangrowlerbrewing.com/>

651-340-5793





## Vino in the Valley

### Minnesota Restaurants

W3826 450th Ave (Maiden Rock, WI)

\$15-\$21, unique dining – full outdoor patio dining in the middle of a farmer’s field and next to a young vineyard. Music and bonfires. Seasonal hours – may close if thunderstorms. Thursday/Friday (5-10), Saturday (3-10), Sunday (noon-6). Good Italian food, pizza, pasta. All wines under \$30. Beautiful place to dine on a nice summer evening. One of our favorite places to dine – wish it was closer to home.  
About 74 miles from home – 70 minute drive.  
[www.vinointhevalley.com](http://www.vinointhevalley.com)

715-639-6677

## W.A. Frost & Co.

374 Selby Ave. (St. Paul)

\$\$\$\$ (\$100 plus for 2). Very small menu selection. The night we went half of the eight entrees were seafood selections. We had the swordfish special (\$28) which was good, but nothing special. All a-la-carte menu. Way too expensive for what you get. The wine list was impressive, but very few wines under \$30. Nice outdoor patio dining. Brunch. Reservations.  
Wine Spectator award winner (moderate \$).  
[www.wafrost.com](http://www.wafrost.com)

612-224-5715



## Minnesota Restaurants

### Wildfire

3020 Eden Prairie Center (Eden Prairie)

\$20-\$34, casual, steak/chop house, filet mignon, scallops, lamb, prime rib, seafood, all non-smoking, reservations. A good steak house. Probably not worth a long drive, but great if you are in the area. They have a large menu selection. The filet was good (not great), the crab cake and French onion soup both were excellent. Nice selection of desserts. Good wine selection - a number of wines available under \$35. Ask to sit in one of the 'side' rooms if you prefer a little more intimacy and quiet.  
[www.wildfirerestaurant.com](http://www.wildfirerestaurant.com)

952-914-9100

### Winzer Stube

516 2nd St (Hudson)

\$13-\$25, Authentic German, casual, veal and pork Schnitzel, sausages. Great authentic food, large portions, good service. Veal and beef tenderloin was done just perfect – very tender and tasty. Noisy in the bar area – especially when the accordion player is nearby. For a quieter location, ask for a table in the Ratskeller Room. Large selection of beer and great value priced wine list. May be the best German restaurant in the Midwest outside of Milwaukee.  
2020 – Veal strips with mushrooms and Rahmschnitzel (huge portion). Very good cabbage. Both pilsner beers were good.  
<https://winzerstuberestaurant.com/>

715-381-5092



**Zelo**

## Minnesota Restaurants

831 Nicollet Mall (Minneapolis)

\$15-\$37, Dressy, Italian. Large menu - burgers, pasta, steak, chicken and seafood. Nice choice of appetizers and salads – nice size portions. Good wine list – a number under \$50. Good, white tablecloth service. Great desserts. December 2023 visit – one of our favorite Italian restaurants. Excellent service (but did not pour wine), nice décor, not too noisy, booths and tables. A ton of appetizer choices – hard to select one. We did land on the parmesan shrimp (\$18). There were 11 medium size shrimp for the smaller portion option. There was a typical cocktail dipping sauce and a flavorful aioli – super, yummy dish – with or without either of the dips. Jan had butternut squash ravioli (\$25 for the small portion) and loved it. I had the braised lamb linguine (\$31 for the large portion). The pasta was excellent as was the lamb. The lamb could have had a bit more of a typical lamb flavor. It was a bit bland. We had the tiramisu (\$13), a ruby port (\$12) and a double espresso (\$6) for dessert. Plenty of wine choices. We had a nice Caymus Petite Syrah from the Napa area (\$68). An excellent meal that was paced nicely with large portions and excellent food. They say they have free valet parking, but each time we have been here, there has not been anyone at the valet stand. So, don't count on it. We parked across the street at the Target parking structure (\$6).  
<https://zelompls.com/>

**RED = excellent**

6/2/2024

**GREEN = good**

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## Minnesota Restaurants

### Best According to Zagat (2008)

Bar La Grasa	agree
112 Eatery	agree
Meritage	agree
Restaurant Alma	agree
Manny's Steakhouse	
Oceanaire Seafood Room	agree

### Zagat Mentionable

Cosmos	
Dakota Jazz Club	agree
Kincaid's	
Modern Café	
St. Paul Grill	

### Guthrie Choices

112 Eatery  
Alma  
Bar la Grassa  
India Palace  
Sawatdee



## Minnesota Pizza

### Big Ten Tavern

4703 Highway 10 (Arden Hills)

Nice, thin crust pizza. Good Italian sausage – large pieces. Not too salty pepperoni.

651-633-7253

Fish fry.

[welschsbigten.com](http://welschsbigten.com)

### Black Sheep Pizza

600 Washington Ave. (Minneapolis)

Thin crust pizza cooked in coal fired oven, good pizza, lots of toppings (not too much cheese though), a handful of reasonable priced wines and beers, small dining area, good service

612-342-2625

[www.blacksheeppizza.com](http://www.blacksheeppizza.com)

### Carbone's

3150 Lexington Ave. (Shoreview)

9200 Lexington Ave. (Circle Pines)

The Circle Pines restaurant has a fairly small seating area, with a cozy log cabin motif.

651-488-0968

The available pizzas are thin crust, Sicilian (thick), and Chicago (deep dish).

763-786-1113

Our Sicilian style pizza had a good amount of cheese, nice sauce, and good tasting sausage – not too spicy. The sausage portions were on the skimpy side. Firm, good tasting crust – one of the best we've tasted. A few wines, but good value – none more than \$15 a bottle. They also have a large menu selection of pastas, Calzones, and sandwiches.

Service was a tad slow and the dining room was a bit noisy.

I am still looking for a superb pizza in the Twin Cities area. This may not be it, but it is close.

None of the Carbones deliver any thick crust pizzas – drops them down a notch in our ranking.

### Chanticlear

Various locations

Thin crust. Okay. Good amount of cheese, pepperoni was too spicy.

651-490-1313



**Minnesota Pizza**

**Davannis**

3673 Lexington Ave N (Arden Hills)  
Other locations as well

Thin, traditional, or deep dish. Lots of toppings, nice spicy sausage, good sauce. Get thin crust.  
[www.davannis.com/location/arden-hills](http://www.davannis.com/location/arden-hills)

612-481-7100

**Fat Lorenzo's**

5600 Cedar Avenue S. (Minneapolis)

Very thin crust, cut into too large of pieces. Not many mushrooms or black olives.

612-822-2040

**Green Mill**

100 Gramsie Road (Arden Hills)  
Rosedale Mall (Roseville)

Thin, deep dish, or stuffed, nice spicy Italian sausage, but not a lot of toppings. Good stuffed pizza. Nice selection of pasta dishes. Sunday brunch.

651-482-1600

651-633-2100



## Minnesota Pizza

<b>Mama's</b> (Closed)	961 Rice Street (St. Paul)	\$7-\$15, Pizza and pasta. Small dining room of about 10 tables and booths – very casual. Lots of toppings on the pizza, nice, crisp crust. A couple of red wines and small selection of beer. Great, great value. www.mamaspizzaparlor.com	651-489-2005
<b>Mansetti's Pizza &amp; Pasta</b>	3999 Rice Street (Shoreview)	Good spaghetti. Lots of pasta choices. Pizza is nothing special – not worth a repeat visit. Had SMO and there was hardly any taste to the sausage or mushrooms. A couple of pieces were soggy. They have thin crust and thick crust.	651-483-5125
<b>Old Chicago</b> (Closed)	2100 N. Snelling Ave. (Roseville)	Thin, pan and stuffed. Stuffed was very good. Had a lot of toppings. Pepperoni was not too spicy. Outdoor seating. Lots of beer choices with many on tap.	651-639-0303
<b>Panino's</b>	857 Village Center Drive (North Oaks)	Order the thick crust - it will hold up to the plentiful toppings. Sausage is good.	651-486-0296
<b>Pizza Luce</b>	119 N 4th St (Minneapolis) 2851 Snelling Ave N (Roseville)	A large pizza menu with many available toppings including white sauce instead of red sauce. The red sauce was not too spicy and tasted like nice sun roasted tomatoes. The sausage is homemade, not too spicy. The meat toppings as well as the cheese were skimpy portions.	612-333-7359 651-789-6909
<b>Pizza Man</b>	29 East Little Canada Road (Little Canada)	Delivery. Thin crust cut into small squares. Lots of cheese, good sausage.	651-415-0641



## Minnesota Pizza

### Pizzeria Pezzo

2143 4<sup>th</sup> Street (White Bear)

Chicago deep dish and wood fired pizzas. Very nice décor and good pizza, but toppings were not too plentiful. Offers some white pizzas as well. Closed Mondays [www.pizzeriapezzo.com](http://www.pizzeriapezzo.com)

651-788-7844

### Punch Neapolitan Pizza

704 Cleveland Ave S (St. Paul)  
1018 East County Hwy 96 (Vadnais Heights)

All the pies are fired in a wood oven, true to the Neapolitan style of pizza-making. Ingredients range from San Marzano tomatoes to creamy, fresh mozzarella. Small patio. Fast service, but pizzas were not done enough in the middle. Nothing special.

651-696-1066

### Rocco's Pizza

5916 Lexington Ave. (Shoreview)

Very good sausage and pepperoni. Thin, deep dish and an excellent stuffed. Delivery available. Our favorite stuffed pizza. [www.roccospizza.com](http://www.roccospizza.com)

651-784-7151

### Sarpino's Pizza

2216 County Road D West (Roseville)

Thin or hand tossed crust. Regular or spicy sausage. Sauce and crust very good. Pepperoni good – not too salty, but sausage portion was skimpy and did not add very much flavor. Free delivery. [www.gosarpinos.com](http://www.gosarpinos.com)

651-379-9399

### Tasty Pizza

875 45 Ave NE (Columbia Heights)

Small restaurant. Thin crust cut into small squares. Good quantity of toppings, good sausage, not too spicy pepperoni. Too far away for carry out. Above average when dining at the restaurant.

612-571-2722



# Night Clubs

Comedy Corner	501 S Washington Ave (Minneapolis)	Comedy Club <a href="http://comedycornerunderground.com/">http://comedycornerunderground.com/</a>	
<b>Comedy Sportz</b>	1414 W. 28 <sup>th</sup> (Uptown - 28 <sup>th</sup> and Hennepin)	Improv. Jeans. Small, theater type sitting. Show last about two hours. \$10. Reservations, open seating.	612-870-1230
<b>Gabes by the Park</b>	991 N Lexington Pkwy (St. Paul)	Packer Bar.	651-646-3066
Kieran's Irish Pub		Irish music - no cover. Food.	612-339-4499
O'Donovans	700 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave. North (downtown Minneapolis)	Irish music. Food.	612-317-8896