

DINING IN BOULDER (CASUAL TO MID-RANGE)

7/22/09

(This list does not include fast food like MacDonalds, KFC etc. or small, cheap, fast Mexican spots – there are plenty of those around too.)

Restaurants and bars in Colorado are non-smoking.

L = Close to LASP

P = On or close to Pearl Street Mall (Pearl Street Mall, at the center of Boulder's historic shopping and business district, is a beautifully landscaped, four-block pedestrian mall with many restaurants, shops, and entertaining street performers.)

F = Fast, counter or buffet service

AMERICAN/NEW AMERICAN

Buff Restaurant

L

1725 28th Street, 303-442-9150

Burgers, soups, salads. Open for breakfast and lunch.

California Pizza Kitchen

L

1711 29th St. In the 29th Street Mall, on Canyon near 28th. 303-440-3390

A chain of California cuisine-inspired pizzas, salads and pastas. High-energy, family-friendly environment.

Known for its innovative take on the pizza, from Jamaican Jerk Chicken and Peking Duck to BLT.

Dark Horse

L

2922 Baseline Rd, (303) 442 - 8162

A Boulder landmark since 1975, this unique food-and-beverage emporium is adorned with movie props and turn of the century antiques, it truly "boggles the mind". This college hangout's menu includes award-winning gourmet burgers, jumbo wings, chicken and vegetarian dishes and they are know for cheap drinks (the place smells a little like old beer). Burger Madness on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, when the original burger with fries, a salad or pasta salad is only \$3.29. Karaoke on Thursday night. Dance Wednesdays to live music and Fridays and Saturdays to a DJ. Happy Hour Monday thru Friday 4-8pm. Open daily for lunch and dinner 11am-2am.

Denny's

L

2905 Baseline Rd, (303) 447-0080

For those that want the known, and need breakfast at any hour of the day or night.

Dot's Diner

L

2716 28th St., (303) 449-1323

Traditional down-home diner food. Local's haunt for breakfast and lunch for decades. 7am –2pm Tues – Fri, 8am-2pm Sat - Mon.

Food, Cafe

LF

2079 30th St, (303) 443-9239

Fast, friendly, small and casual and some of the best sub sandwiches in the area. Order them with everything on it for a memorable pickle-pepper-onion taste you'll come back for again and again. They have amazing in-house-roasted beef (perfectly rare) and turkey as well as great clam chowder and other marvelous soups. Been around forever, but hidden and not well known. Monday – Friday 10:30 – 4pm.

Foolish Craig's

P

1611 Pearl Street, 303-247-0383

Crêpes, omelets, sandwiches on freshly made breads, salads, and homemade soups at reasonable prices. The dinner menu features fresh seafood, steaks, chicken, and pasta.

Cocktails, wine, beer, and espresso. Open bluegrass jam every Mon 8:30-10 pm. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner 8 am-10 pm.

Islands Fine Burgers and Drinks

L

1855 29th St. In the 29th Street Mall, on 29th St. in the center, but facing 28th St. near Macy's. 303-449-0333

A chain of nearly 60 restaurants that specializes in fresh specialty burgers, hand-cut fries, salads, tacos, exotic drinks and more in a fun, tropical atmosphere, Islands. The restaurant features action sports videos, an outdoor patio and décor reminiscent of a tiki beach hut.

KT's BBQ

F

7464 Arapahoe Rd. and 2675 13th St, (303) 786-7608

This rib palace delivers the goods--from knockout ribs and snappy sauces to grade-A side dishes and big values for the buck. The Memphis-style pork ribs are gently smoked, dry-rubbed bones that get a quick baste and a grilling prior to hitting the plate. A trio of sauces includes modest Southern/vinegar, excellent Texas (with ample spank), and blissfully burning hot pepper. Buy ribs in various-sized baskets that come with side dishes. Mon – Sat 11am-pm.

Mad Greens **LF**

1805 29th St. In the 29th Street Mall, on 29th St. in the center, but facing 28th St. near Macy's. 303-464-7336

A small Colorado chain of four locations that specializes in entrée salads and paninis. Chooosed from chef-designed salads, or build your own creations.

Mountain Sun Pub and Brewery **P**

1535 Pearl Street 303-546-0886

American casual—good burgers and many vegetarian items, along with a vast array of local microbrews, from Java Porter to the Colorado Kind to homemade root beer. Boulder Weekly 2002 readers' pick for "Best Brewery." Open for lunch and dinner.

Noodles & Co **LF**

2770 Pearl St, (303) 444-5533

"Fast and fresh" chain headquartered in Boulder. Parking is very difficult, but food is good, fast and cheap. Lunch and dinner.

Old Chicago

1102 Pearl Street, 303-443-5031

Chicago-style deep-dish pizza, pasta, sandwiches, and salads. More than 110 brews from around the world, including the most popular microbrews. Boulder Weekly readers' 2002 pick for "Best Beer Selection." Open for lunch, dinner, and late night.

Olive Garden **L**

2685 Pearl (northwest corner of Pearl and 28th Street), 303-546-6506

Italian cuisine. Open daily from 11 am.

Original Pancake House **L**

2600 Canyon Boulevard, 303-449-1575

Creative and hearty breakfasts. Famous for the Dutch apple pancakes. M-F, 6:30am-2:30pm. Sat & Sun: 7am-3pm.

Panera Bread **LF**

1855 29th St. In the 29th Street Mall, on 29th St. in the center, near Macy's. 303-544-1800

Artisan bread on-premise daily. The Panera chain serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner with artisan bread being the centerpiece of everything including made-to-order sandwiches and salads with free-range chicken, soup served in sourdough bread bowls, and Crispani, a thin-crust pizza in six varieties.

Red Robin Burgers **L**

2580 Arapahoe Avenue, 303-442-0320

Gourmet burgers, salads, beers, wines, and mixed drinks. Open for lunch and dinner.

The Rib House **P**

1801 13th Street, Suite 180, (303) 442-7427. Kansas City style barbeque. Fabulous ribs and everything else is delicious too.

Snarfs **LF**

5340 Arapahoe Avenue, 303- 444-3404

Boulder's much-loved sandwich shop. Nearly 20 sandwiches, a handful of salads and soups of the day. Made on French bread, they come in standard combinations like turkey and Swiss and not-so-standard like artichoke, feta and provolone. The pizzazz comes from a brief stint under the broiler, which melts the cheese, crisps the crust and harmonizes the flavors. Sandwiches come with the works: shredded lettuce, tomatoes, onions, razor-thin pickles, oil, seasonings, mayonnaise, mustard and hot peppers.

Spicy Pickle **LF**

2660 Pearl Street, 303-413-0707

A better sub shop that serves meats and fine Italian Artisan breads along with a wide choice of 10 different cheeses, 21 different toppings, and 15 proprietary spreads to create healthy and delicious panini and sub sandwiches with flavors from around the world. There are over 17,000 delicious sandwich combinations to create Salads and soups too. Parking is very difficult

Wahoo's Fish Taco **LF**

2790 Pearl St., (303) 473-9072

Good fast and fresh chain. Parking is difficult, but food is cheap, healthy, sometimes fast, and good. Lunch and dinner.

Walnut Café **L**

3073 Walnut Street (northeast corner of Walnut and 30th Street), 303-442-9689

Breakfast served all day—fresh-baked goods, waffles, omelets, huevos rancheros. Lunch specials, many vegetarian options. Open 7 am–4 pm daily.

ASIAN

Asian Deli **F**

2833 28th St, 303-541-9377

Used to be part of an Asian Market, but now separate. Small family owned Vietnamese fare. Good sized menu and reasonable prices. Very casual. and a bit funky but really authentic. Lunch and dinner.

Chey Thuy **L**

2665 28th St., 303-442-1700

Excellent food, large portions and prices moderate. There's always a crowd and it can get loud. But all of these are good things as they are a testament to the popularity of the food. The lunch crowd isn't any smaller, so don't bother trying to find a downtime.

For starters, try the hot-and-sour soup. The seafood special is packed with seafood, and the five-spice chicken looks like they've mistakenly served a whole bird. The vegetarian hot pot is served in a black-bean sauce that's thick and flavorful, without being overbearing. Mon-Tue 11am-4pm; Wed-Thu 4pm-9pm; Fri-Sat 4pm-10pm; Sun 5pm-9pm.

China Gourmet **F**

3970 Broadway St Ste 102, North Boulder (303) 440-3500

Some of the fresher, better Chinese food in town. Small, walk-up-and-order neighborhood place. Try the Tangerine Shrimp, sweet and a little hot with lots of vegis and shrimp.

Golden Lotus **L**

1964 28th Street (in front of Target), 303-442-6868

Fresh, expertly prepared, MSG-free food. Szechwan, Cantonese and Mandarin cuisines. Open for lunch and dinner.

May Wah **LF**

2500 Baseline Rd. (303) 499-8225

Chinese and Vietnamese. Very good, fresh and good sized portions. Although it is a sit-down restaurant, they have always been very fast!

Moongate Asian Bistro **P**

1628 Pearl St. 720-406-8888

A variety of Asian styles. Lovely food and presentation. Full liquor licence. The atmosphere or a nicer restaurant with the prices of an inexpensive Chinese restaurant.

Pei Wei Asian Diner **LF**

1675 29th St. In the 29th Street Mall, on 29th St between Arapahoe and Canyon. 720-479-5570

The quick casual dining option from the P.F. Chang chain. Menu features intensely flavored, freshly prepared sauces, vegetables and meats cooked to order using, Asian wok techniques. Quick, healthy Asian food.

Siamese Plate **L**

1575 Folsom Street (northwest corner of Arapahoe and Folsom), 303-447-9718

Large selection of vegetarian entrees, no MSG used. Try the chef's special—sautéed salmon, shrimp, mussels, and squid with yellow curry, zucchini, bell pepper and coconut milk; or seafood on hot plate. The 2002 top choice of Boulder Weekly readers, the restaurant is also officially recognized by the Thai government for its delicious Thai cuisine. Open for lunch Mon-Sat, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, and dinner Sun-Thurs, 5 to 10 pm, Fri-Sat till 10:30 pm.

Siamese Plate On the Go **F**

3033 28th St., (303) 444-3133

Some of the best fast food in town. Counter-service Thai food. Fast and inexpensive. Sushi too. Lunch and dinner.

Suki Thai Noodle House **L**
 675 30th St. (30th and Baseline, in Carelli's shopping center), (303) 444-1196. Similar to the casual street vendor cooking found in Thailand—noodle bowls, salads and spring rolls with fresh seasonal vegetables cooked in front of you. Most entrees cost less than \$6.

Sumida's. **L**
 1575 Folsom (at Arapahoe), 303-449-8404
 Japanese food and sushi bar. Bento Boxes for lunch as well.

Tokyo Joes **LF**
 2525 Arapahoe Ave., (303) 443-1555
 Fast food Japanese chain. rice bowls, noodle bowls, sushi, salads.

INDIAN/NEPALESE

Mantra (used to be Bali to Bombay) **L**
 1630 30th St. (corner of Arapahoe), 720-839-5634
 Curries and Kebabs from India and elsewhere in South Asia. They had a nice, unique buffet at lunch with different offerings than the rest, but I'm not sure if they still do – would suspect so. Open for lunch and dinner.

Himalayas **PF**
 2010 14th St Ste 1, (303) 442-3230
 An excellent selection of Nepalese and Indian dishes: tandoori chicken, vegetable pakoras, dal of yellow lentils, chicken curry, naan bread and more. Inexpensive and quick buffet at lunch. Sun-Thu 11am-2pm, 4pm-9:30pm, Fri-Sat 11am-2pm, 4pm-10pm.

Narayan's Nepal **LF**
 3800 Baseline Rd. (in the Meadows shopping center), (303) 499-2234
 Nepalese Food. Great \$7.95 quick buffet at lunch.

Royal Peacock **F**
 5290 Arapahoe, 303-447-1409
 Boulder's original Indian restaurant with a nice quick buffet at lunch. As a unique twist, they serve genuine French absinth. How can get away with selling absinthe in America? Absinthe as a drink is not illegal, wormwood as a food additive is. Just as there are many species of roses, there are many species of wormwood. The wormwood used in their absinthe is a combination of Roman and Southern wormwood. While not as potent as the original, it keeps people coming back.

Sherpa's **P**
 825 Walnut St, (303) 440-7151
 The chef strives for simple, hearty fare native to Tibet, Nepal and India. Most dishes offer several meat choices, and many can be served vegetarian. Creamy saag arrives brilliantly green with freshly cut spinach. Rich lamb vindaloo melts in the mouth as if the meat has been simmering for hours. Tibetan momos stuffed with vegetables, chicken or beef are similar to Japanese dumplings with slightly thicker dough, while samosas come with a buttery, pastry-like crust. Finish with a rich lashi drink--fruit blended with yogurt. Sun-Thu 11am-3pm, 5pm-9:30pm; Fri-Sat 11am-3pm, 5pm-10pm.

Taj **F**
 2630 Baseline Road, 303-494-5216
 Recipes from the great Mogul court of 16th-century India, using the freshest possible ingredients. MSG is not used. Tandoori grills and breads, south Indian coconut curries and chili masalas. Nice, quick buffet at lunch. Open for lunch and dinner. Daily 11am-2pm and 5pm-10pm.

Tandoori Grill **F**
 619 South Broadway, 303-543-7339
 Punjabi Indian cuisine—curry dishes, breads, biyanis, vegetarian items, masalas, and tandoor cooking. Noted for its dessert duo of fresh rice pudding and mango custard. Open lunch Mon-Fri 11:30 am-2:30 pm, Sat-Sun noon-3 pm; and dinner Mon-Thurs 5-9:30 pm, Fri-Sat till 10 pm, Sun till 9pm.

INTERNATIONAL/ECLECTIC

8 Island **F**
 3050 28th St., 303-440-7427

Fast-casual local Hawaiian food. A variety of beef, chicken, pork and seafood dishes as well as daily specials and "Aloha Fridays" with traditional kalua pork, poke and lomi lomi salmon. They even have Masubi (Spam sushi). Open Mon - Sat, 11:00am-9:00pm.

Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse

P

2770 13th Street, 303-442-4993

Handcrafted and gifted to the City of Boulder by our sister city, Dushanbe of Tajikistan, this is the only authentic Persian teahouse in the western hemisphere. Eclectic international menu, breathtaking artwork, and charming ambiance. Balinese fried fish, Thai coconut curry with shrimp, Tajik lamb shish kabob, and many vegetarian dishes. A fine selection of 40 to 60 teas, cappuccino, French-press coffees, and chai. Open for morning tea Mon-Fri 8-11 am; breakfast and lunch Mon-Fri till 3pm; teatime daily 3-5pm; and dinner Sun-Thurs 5-9 pm, Fri-Sat till 10 pm.

Conor O'Neill's

P

1922 13th Street, one-half block south of Pearl Street Mall, 303-449-1922

Traditional Irish pub—you feel like you walked out of Boulder and into Ireland. An extensive selection of English and Irish draft import beers and a wide variety of Irish and Scotch whiskeys. Traditional fish and chips, shepherd's pie, and steak-and-cheddar boxty. Live music nightly. Open daily for lunch and dinner till 1:30am.

Daphne's Greek Cafe

L

1695 29th Street, In the 29th Street Mall (303)-440-2946

A small chain of Mediterranean cafes. Falafel, Gyros, salads and more. Personally, Not that great or authentic but decent. Open Mon-Thur. 11am-9pm and Fri-Sat 11am-10pm.

Falafel King

PF

1314 Pearl Street, 303-449-9321

Fast Mediterranean food is what you'll find here. Falafel, Gyros, salads and more. Quick and tasty, right on the Pearl Street Mall. Open Mon-Sat 10:30am-9:30pm and Sun. 11:30am-9pm.

Lucile's

P

2124 14th St, (303) 442-4743

Best breakfast! Cajun and Creole specialties. Lines out the door, be patient. Start with a cup of chicory coffee and an order of beignets. The traditional eggs Sardou combines poached eggs with delectable creamed spinach and fresh Gulf shrimp. The eggs New Orleans features fried eggplant slices topped with rich hollandaise sauce and a zesty red Creole sauce. Try the eggs Ponchartrain--pan-fried trout served with poached eggs and topped with b ernaise sauce. Light options are limited--even rice pudding porridge is topped with cream. Open for breakfast and lunch.

Mediterranean Market and Deli

LF

2607 Pearl St., . (303) 448-9552

A small market with a nice little deli area serving falafal, salads and some of the best gyros around.

Rumbi Island Grill

LF

1675 29th St. In the 29th Street Mall, on 29th St between Arapahoe and Canyon. 303-442-0411

A Hawaiian grill chain dedicated to fresh, flavorful, island-fresh cuisine including rice and meat bowls with Teriyaki, Jerk and Bali Peanut sauces; salads. Open 10am – 9pm daily.

ITALIAN

Caf  Gondolier

P

1738 Pearl Street, 303-443-5015

Fresh, homemade, and affordable pizzas, pastas, and a wide range of Italian specialties, with 20 beers on tap. Open daily for lunch 11:30 am-4 pm; and dinner Tues-Sat 4:30-10 pm, Sun-Mon till 9:30 pm. Live piano music Fri-Sat 7-10 pm.

Il Pastaio

LF

3075 B Arapahoe Ave (Sunrise Shopping Center), 303-447-9572. A variety of hand-made pastas and main dishes from a steam table in a small, quaint space. Great lunch specials.

Protos Pizza

4670 Broadway, 720-565-1050

Small, local chain of creative pizza. Very good, but not too cheap. They serve wine as well as balsamic vinegar to put on your pizza...very different, but actually very good. On Fridays they have a quite clam pizza. Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm, Fri and Sat 11am-10pm, Sundays 3pm-9pm

MEXICAN/SOUTHWESTERN**Casa Alvarez****L**

3161 Walnut Street (northeast corner of Walnut and 30th Streets), 303-546-0630

Food of old Mexico featuring award-winning green, red, and vegetarian chilis; fajitas; seafood, meat, and vegetarian dishes; and carnitas enchiladas. Full bar with draft beers and the finest aged tequilas. Ample free parking. Open for lunch and dinner Sun-Thurs 11 am-10 pm, Fri-Sat till 11 pm.

Chipotle Mexican Grill**LF**In the 29th Street Mall, on 28th between Canyon and Arapahoe.

A Colorado-based chain specializing in gourmet burritos and tacos. They are known for their chunky guacamole, large burritos, and emphasis on high quality and natural beef.

Cantina Laredo**L**Corner of 29th and Canyon in the 29th Street Mall, (303)-444-2260

Mexican dishes in a sophisticated atmosphere. Daily fish specials, grilled chicken and steaks with sauces such as chipotle-wine with portobello mushrooms or sauteed artichoke hearts and roasted red bell peppers. Fresh fish, Certified Angus Beef steaks and hand rolled enchiladas. Open for lunch and dinner.

Efrain's Mexican Restaurant

1630 63rd St, Ste 10, (just north of Arapahoe) (303) 440-4045

The sister restaurant to a very popular family run Mexican restaurant in Lafayette. Some of the better Mexican food in town, but so out of the way and hidden that many Boulderites don't even know there's an outpost in here and still drive to the other one.

Juanita's**P**

1043 Pearl Street, 303-449-5273

Colorful, high-energy neighborhood restaurant and bar voted "Best Mexican Food" for 14 years by locals.

Authentic, modestly priced Mexican and Tex-Mex standards plus specialties such as chicken chipolte, cuervo chicken, shrimp asada, snapper Vera Cruz, and key lime pie. Boulder Weekly readers' 2002 pick for "Best Mexican." Open for lunch and dinner Sun-Thurs 11:30 am-10 pm, Fri-Sat till 11 pm.

Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant**P**

1101 Walnut Street, 303-444-3690

Authentic Tex-Mex food, charbroiled specialties, award-winning margaritas, extensive appetizer menu. Open for lunch Mon-Fri 11 am-2 pm, Sat-Sun till 2:30 pm; and dinner 5-10 pm.

NATURAL/VEGETARIAN**Turley's****L**

2805 Pearl Street, 303-442-2800

Buffalo burgers, spit-roasted chicken, lasagna, chicken-fried steak, salads, large vegetarian selection, and many low-fat menu items. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.