DINING IN BOULDER  (CASUAL TO MID-RANGE)  7/26/19

(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
U = Whether the food is great or not, it’s a unique experience
* = Laura’s personal favorites (she used to go on restaurant reviews with the Rocky Mountain News)
° = Fast if you do the lunch buffets

AMERICAN/NEW AMERICAN

BJ’s Restaurant and Brewhouse  L
1725 28th Street, 303-442-9150
A chain brewery with deep dish pizza, beer and American food. Open daily, lunch and dinner.

*Bru Handbuilt Ales & Eats  L
5290 Arapahoe Ave., 720-638-5193
A small, quaint brewery with probably the best food of any brewery in town.

Buff, The  L
1725 28th St. 303-442-9150
Founded in 1995, this Boulder institution is open for breakfast and lunch. They have generous, quality meals that focus on breakfast/brunch and are huge recyclers and use lots of local ingredients. Huge bloody Marys.

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. (Parking can get very difficult at lunch in the 29th St. mall area, so go early or late). Open daily, lunch and dinner.

Cheesecake Factory  P
1401 Pearl St. (303) 546-0222
Upscale casual dining restaurant chain featuring more than 200 menu selections, 50 specialty cocktails and 40 signature cheesecakes and desserts. Huge portions. Open daily, lunch and dinner.

Dark Horse  LU
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.

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.

Foolish Craig’s  P
1611 Pearl Street, 303-247-0383
Crêpes, omelets, sandwiches on freshly made breads, salads, and homemade soups at reasonable prices. Great hamburgers! 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.

*Larkburger  LF
2525 Arapahoe Ave, (303) 444-1487.
Great burgers and fries (including truffle fries). Turkey, tuna and vegi burger and salad too. 100% natural black angus beef, free of trans fats. Green in all ways. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Mad Greens
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 entree salads and paninis. Chosen from chef-designed salads, or build your own creations. (Parking can get very difficult at lunch in the 29th St. mall area, so go early or late). Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Modern Market (Modmarket)
1600 28th Street (in the 29th St. Mall), 866-584-3944
A better chain, they serve quick, fast, fresh and healthy salads, soups, and flatbreads pizzas.

Moe’s Original Barbecue
675 30th St., 303-440-4227
Southern soul food chain. Good family place. There is a rustic, woody and comforting atmosphere. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Mountain Sun Pub and Brewery
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. A popular spot for climbers and other hip young locals. Can get very crowded so get there early. Open Tues – Sun lunch through late-night. Monday no lunch.

Noodles & Co
1600 28th St, (303) 444-5533
"Fast and fresh" chain headquartered in Boulder. Parking can be difficult, but food is good, fast and cheap.
Lunch and dinner.

Panera Bread
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 Crispiani, a thin-crust pizza in six varieties.

Rayback Collective [Food truck court]
2775 Valmont Rd. (near 28th). 720-885-1234
Billing itself as Boulder’s Backyard, the Rayback Collective is Boulder’s first food truck court. They usually have two trucks at lunch and four at dinner. There is a bar with local beers inside the large dining area (couches too) and lawn games and picnic tables outside. There isn’t much parking (be sure to drive around the building), but this would be a great place to have a meeting at lunch—or get there early before it gets crowded—as there’s lots of space and everyone can pay for their own. Schedule here: https://therayback.com/

Smashburger
1650 28th St. (29th Street Mall)
If you’ve had one, you know. “Fresh, never frozen 100% Angus Beef smashed, seared and seasoned on the grill.” Lunch and dinner every day. (Parking can get very difficult at lunch in the 29th St. mall area, so go early or late).

Snarf’s
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. Lunch and dinner every day.

Wahoo’s Fish Taco
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.

West Flanders Brewing Company
1125 Pearl St., (303) 447-2739
A locally owned Brewpub bringing with “passion driven beer” and good food. They recently brought on a good chef and veteran of Boulder’s better restaurants, so I’ve added this to the list. It gets very good reviews. Mon. – Sat. 11am-4pm; Mon – Sun. 4-10pm. Brunch Sun 10am-3pm and happy hour Mon. – Fri. 3-6pm.
**Walnut Café**
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.

**Yellow Deli**
908 Pearl Street, 303-996-4700
Step into a time-warp, to the 1960s in Haight-Ashbury. This unique, small, international, chain restaurant is owned by the Twelve Tribes religious group and is open 24 hours, 7 days a week, except Friday 3pm through Sunday 12pm for the Sabbath. The service is slow so don’t go for lunch. But it’s an experience and the rueben is very good.

**ASIAN**

**Aloy Thai**
2720 Canyon Blvd., 303-440-2903
Authentic, non-GMO ingredients While they serve traditional home style Thai cuisine, they offer organic and healthy choices served with no MSGs added and have gluten free and vegetarian options. 11:00am – 10:00pm daily.

**Boulder Pho** - 2855 28th Street, 303-442-0391
This Vietnamese restaurant is quickly gaining a reputation for great Pho and as well as Banh Mi sandwiches.

**Chey Thuy**
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**
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. Lunch and dinner every day.

**Folsom Thai**
1575 Folsom Street. 303-955-4437
This small, very casual, quick-serve and authentic Thai restaurant is one of the best around and a favorite of Clay Fong, the Daily Camera dining critic.

**Jin Chan**
2835 28th St., 303-449-7950
This reincarnation of a Boulder institution has some very authentic dishes if you dare order from the Chinese menu on the counter.

**Khow Thai**
1600 Broadway, (303) 447-0273
Khow Thai opened in 2002 and has been voted as the best Thai in Boulder from 2003 – 2014 (waiting to hear about 2015). They have a lunch buffet. Parking can be challenging, so go around to the parking lot in the back. 11:00am – 10:00pm M-F, 5-10pm Sat & Sun.

**May Wah**
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! Lunch and dinner Mon – Sat. Dinner on Sun.

**Motomaki**
1600 28th St. 720-943-2030
Fast food sushi. This place is the Chipotle of sushi. They have their huge signature rolls (filled with the kitchen sink—you can get them in a bowl if you’d like) and make-your-own rolls as well as poke bowls. It’s my go-to for fast, healthy(?), and refreshing. Not your classic sushi, but it’s my go-to fast sushi.

**My Ramen and Izakawa**
This hidden gem has authentic and delicious Japanese cuisine at an affordable price. They have many fun small plates as well as a good choice of some of the best ramen around. M-F 11am-9pm, Sat and Sun 4-9pm.

Osakas
2460 Canyon Blvd. 720-398-9115
“A New Way to Eat Japanese” with the introduction of the Osaka Burger, which uses okonomiyaki—a traditional, savory pancake—as a bun in an array of flavor-filled, healthy burger-style sandwiches.” Lunch is mostly about these unique and delicious “burgers”. Dinner has many other authentic Japanese foods.

Pei Wei Asian Diner
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. (Parking can get very difficult at lunch in the 29th St. mall area, so go early or late). Lunch and dinner every day.

Tokyo Joes
2525 Arapahoe Ave., (303) 443-1555

ViNa Pho and Grill
1630 30th St. (corner of Arapahoe), (303) 444-1809
Vietnamese food pretty good but very close to LASP and pretty quick. Menu features rice, noodle bowls, rolls, and their signature Pho. Reasonable prices. Lunch and dinner every day.

INDIAN/NEPALESE

Gurkhas Curry Kitchen
4800 Baseline Rd., (303) 499-0469.
Pretty good Indian and Nepalese cuisine with a good buffet at lunch. Lunch Buffet (Mon-Fri): 11:00am - 2:30 pm(Sat-Sun): 12:00 - 2:30 pm, Daily, 5:00 - 9:00 pm

Kathmandu II
1964 28th 28th St. [Can’t find phone yet, but Nederland number is 303-258-1169)
This is the Boulder outpost of the ever-popular Kathmandu in Nederland. Great buffet priced at $9.99 (at opening). Theirs is some of the best around.

Sherpa’s
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
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. Great views by the window too. Daily 11am-2pm and 5pm-10pm.

INTERNATIONAL/ECLECTIC

Ali Baba
3033 28th St, (303) 440-1393
Fine Lebanese and Mediterranean cuisine. In 2002 and 2004, Ali Baba Grill received the “Best Of Denver” award for the best Middle Eastern food in the area. I think they have the best hummus around. Ali Baba is a family run business where everyone is welcome. Open every day from 11am – 9pm.
**Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse**

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.

**Garbanzo Mediterranean Grill**

1905 29th Street, (720) 974-6600

Small chain. Healthy, high-quality Mediterranean items with emphasis on flavor, freshness and authenticity, as well as a trans-fat free menu. Customize your meal with items such as pita, laffa, falafel, shwarma, hummus, seasoned rice, sauces and dressings. Open 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. (Parking not bad as it’s on the quiet side of 29th St. mall.)

**Falafel King**

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.

**Five on Black**

1805 29th Street, #1138, 303-402-5000

Fast casual Brazilian restaurant on the west side of the 29th Street Mall. Choose your own ingredients including feijoada, on a bowl of black beans or rice options and yummy pao de queijjo (cheese bread balls). Open Mon-Sat 11:00am-9:00pm.

**The French Cafe**

2525 Arapahoe Ave, C1, 303-284-2265

This is authentic French café food, but available only for breakfast and lunch…and the almond croissants are to die for. It gets very crowded so be prepared to wait. A large menu of crepes, French sandwiches, salads, lots of baked goods and more. 7:30am – 4:30pm.

**Lucile’s**

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 béarnaise sauce. Light options are limited--even rice pudding porridge is topped with cream. Open for breakfast and lunch (closes at 2pm every day).

**Rincon Argentino**

2525 Arapahoe Ave (Behind Great Harvest Bread), (303) 442-4133

Wonderful Argentinian empanadas, sandwiches (salads too). Don’t forget to ask for chimichurri sauce. They have a “mate power hour” from 2-4pm that includes mate served in a traditional gourd and sipped through a bombilla, served with biscuit cookies. Open lunch and dinner, closed Mondays.

**ITALIAN**

**Cosmo’s Pizza**

659 30th St, 303) 447-3278.

Just good, old fashioned, New York style pizza slices, pies and more at college prices (next to the Williams Village dorms). Quick, cheap and good.

**Gondolier**

4800 Baseline Road (Meadows Shopping Center), 303-447-9572.

One of the oldest restaurants in Boulder, they have moved many times over 50+ years and this 2014 location is the most recent incarnation. Well loved for their classics, and refreshed with some lighter fare, they are committed to great Italian cuisine at a reasonable price. They will be bringing back their all-you-can-eat spaghetti nights for $5.99, but haven’t chose a night yet.

**Il Pastaio**

4800 Baseline Rd. (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. Open for lunch and dinner. Extremely small so call for dinner reservation and get there for lunch early or take-out. They sell their pastas and sauces also.

**Pasta Jay’s**  
1001 Pearl St, (303) 444-5800.  
A casual red-sauce, garlic style Italian restaurant. Baked pasta dishes, pizzas and more. Open 11am-11pm Monday-Saturday, noon-10pm Sunday.

**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

**Vero Italian**  
1738 Pearl St., 442-6966  
Wood-fired pizza and antipasti offered alongside beer & wine in a gleaming, modern space with a small patio. Open every day at 11:00, closes 9:30 Sun – Thur and 10pm on Fri and Sat.

**MEXICAN/SOUTHWESTERN**

**Chipotle Mexican Grill**  
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. Lunch and dinner every day. (Parking can get very difficult at lunch in the 29th St. mall area, so go early or late).

**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 hidden that some Boulderites don’t even know it’s here and still drive to the other one. Can get crowded so go early. Lunch and dinner Mon – Sat. Closed Sun.

**McDevitt Taco Supply**  
4800 Baseline Road, 720-573-4194  
Super Heady Tacos (creative and delicious street tacos) with beers and margaritas. Open every day at 11:30am. Happy hour 3-6pm every day.

**Pica’s Mexican Taqueria**  
5360 Arapahoe Ave., 303-444-3291  
Fast, fresh Mexican. Cravable fish tacos. It’s a cut above the standard Mexican, and well-loved. It’s hard to find parking in the tiny lot, so go early. Lunch and dinner Mon – Sat. Closed Sun.

**Red Agave Tequeria Cocina Calaca Bar**  
2845 28th Street. 303-444-2922  
This Mexican restaurant has more than just the standard fare in a cozy atmosphere. They have good lunch specials and tons of tequilas.

**Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant**  
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**

**Native Foods Cafe**  
1675 29th St., 303-442-0213  
Part of a small chain, this is “the premier chef-crafted vegan restaurant serving homemade, fresh food”. They are very creative with meat substitutes and make a wide variety of meals even carnivores can like. Mon. – Sun. 11am -10pm.

**Flower Child**  
2580 Arapahoe, 303-386-8090  
Healthy food for a happy world is this small chain’s motto. Vegetarian, vegan, paleo, or just hungry, Flower Child in is the place to enjoy feel-good food in a cheery and colorful space full of feel-good vibes.
Fresh Thymes Eatery
2500 30th Street, 303-955-7988
    At this community supported, Ingredient-conscious eatery, whole foods and gluten-free is a given.

Shine Restaurant and Gathering Place
2480 Canyon Blvd. 303-449-0120
    Owned by identical triplets, Shine offers area-sourced fare, housemade drafts, local, organic, and nutrient dense food. The kitchen is gluten free and they are well-known for their “potions”, enchanted and supportive beverages of herbs essences and more.

Zeal – Food for Enthusiasts
1724 Broadway Street, 720-443-2322
    This well-loved casual, organic restaurant focuses on a clean, health-conscious menu of global dishes, juice and cocktails. The best waterfront dining in Boulder, right on Boulder Creek. Open 8am daily. Closes Sun – Thurs usually 10pm, Fri and Sat 10pm.