

BOULDER DINING**(FINER DINING)****1/13/11**

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.)

U = Whether the food is great or not, it's unique

* Laura's favorites (she used to go on restaurant reviews with the Rocky Mountain News.)

AMERICAN/NEW AMERICAN/BISTRO**Oak at Fourteenth – temporarily closed due to fire, call first****P**

1400 Pearl Street, (303)-444-3622

Melding elements of Colorado's rustic backdrop with Boulder's hip and contemporary dining scene, it is a neighborhood restaurant featuring local and seasonal New American Cuisine focused around their one-of-a-kind, oak-fired oven and grill. Weekdays: 11am-10pm (Closed Mondays) Weekends: 10:30 -10pm.

Chautauqua Dining Hall**U**

900 Baseline Rd, (303) 440-3776

At the Colorado Chautauqua which includes an 1100-seat Auditorium for concerts, an Academic hall, Gift Cottage, and the trailheads of many of Boulder's most popular trails. The Chautauqua Dining Hall, a grand lady in architectural and culinary terms, serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner year-round. Chautauqua Dining Hall's menu promotes seasonality and simplicity because superior flavor begins at the farm. They are well known for their patio brunches, overlooking the park. Hours vary through the year, but generally they are closed Monday, have brunch on the weekends and are open for dinner all year round. Reservations recommended.

Jill's Restaurant (at the Hotel St. Julien)**P**

900 Walnut Street, (720) 406-9696

The cuisine is eclectic and draws its inspiration from the Western Mediterranean Region. The kitchen is run by award-winning chef Jason Rogers, whose culinary pedigree has lead him to work with such notables as Todd English and The James Beard Foundation. Jill's serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The Kitchen*P**

1039 Pearl Street, 303-544-5973

As Boulder's neighborhood bistro, the Kitchen's goal is to bring a fresh perspective on ingredients, preparation and guest comfort. It is thought of as one of the best restaurants in Boulder. The Kitchen carefully manages the sources of ingredients to ensure only the best quality. Wherever possible, they stay organic, natural and local to make the dishes straightforward and uncomplicated. From simple dishes like seared sea scallops with pea puree in the spring, to a lamb cassoulet in the winter. Monday night is community night with five courses served family style for \$35 (as of 2005) – reservations required. They also have an upstairs wine and tapas lounge with one of the only fireplaces in town, comfy couches and a warm atmosphere. It is so popular there are lines on weekends at the lounge's separate entrance. Breakfast 8am-11am, Lunch 11:30am-2pm, Afternoon Menu 2pm-5pm, Dinner 5:30pm-close, Saturday and Sunday: Brunch 9am-2pm Dinner 5pm-close. Wine lounge Tues-Sat 4pm – midnight. Reservations highly recommended.

Pinyon, The*P**

1710 Pearl Street, (720) 306-8248

The first on-the-bone, homemade fried chicken in Boulder. Unique rendition of American cuisine with an innovative take on traditional cooking methods using fine local produce and respecting the legacy of our shared culinary heritage. They make their own cheeses, breads, pickles, charcuterie, smoking their own meats, and making their preserves seasonally.

Q's*P**

2115 13th Street (In the Hotel Boulderado), 303-442-4880

Contemporary American cuisine prepared with the season's finest offerings of seafood, meat, game, and local produce. Q's Restaurant was awarded extraordinary ratings in the 1998-2003 Zagat Survey and four stars for food, service and atmosphere by the Denver Post. Breakfast Monday-Friday from 6:30am - 11am, Lunch from 11:30am - 2pm., Saturday and Sunday Brunch from 7am-2pm, Daily for Dinner from 5:30pm-10pm. Reservations recommended.

Salt**P**

1047 Pearl Street, (303) 444-7258

Salt's philosophy is that the best food travels the shortest distance from farm to table, menus should change with the seasons and locally sourced ingredients, combined with European technique and innovative thinking make for a truly remarkable experience. A comfortable blend of neighborhood and fun.

CHINESE**Spice China**

269 McCaslin Blvd Louisville, 720-890-0999

Although this isn't in Boulder it's one quick exit down Foothills Parkway. Authentic, consistently delicious cuisine of two different types—their house recipes and original Shanghai dishes. Large menu, spacious and nice atmosphere. Some of the best Chinese in the area.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL**Brasserie Ten Ten****P**

1010 Walnut St., 303-998-1010

A popular dining and bar spot. Nice happy hour appetizers. Dishes include: Creamy goat cheese bisque, white-chocolate pistachio mousse, fresh mussels simmering in white wine broth, covered in pommes frites; crispy oysters Rockefeller, smooth ahi tartare with garlicky olive tapenade. New York strip glazed in sweet balsamic vinegar, seared sea scallops with a touch of lavender and orange, and tender rosemary-crusted chicken straight from the brick oven. Mon-Fri 11am-3pm, 5pm-11pm, Sat 5pm-11pm.

The Flagstaff House*U**

1138 Flagstaff Drive, 442-4640

Boulder's most impressive, and though of as most expensive, restaurant. Up the mountain, with breathtaking views of the city. Fantastic European-inspired food, and amazing service. This is THE special occasion restaurant in Boulder. Or, go in the summer for aps and drinks on the patio. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Friday, and opens at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Reservations highly recommended. They do have a dress code and the following is not acceptable: shorts, t-shirts, athletic attire, tank tops, sweatsuits or jogging suits, ripped, torn or frayed clothing. Mon-Fri 11am-3pm; Sun-Thu 5pm-9pm; Fri-Sat 5pm-10pm.

L'Atelier*P**

1739 Pearl St, 303-442-7233

Popular Denver-area Chef Radek Cerny's latest restaurant fills the house with laughing, talking diners and clanking silver. The chef's known for his artistic creations and presentations. Start with a gigantic bowl of fresh mussels in the broth of the evening Entrees arrive like a work of art--platters of food surrounded with dabs of colorful truffle oils, blotches of balsamic reduction and swirls of herb sauces. Reservations recommended. Mon-Fri 11am-3pm; Sun-Thu 5pm-9pm; Fri-Sat 5pm-10pm.

Mateo**P**

1837 Pearl St., (303) 443-7766

This Mediterranean and French bistro has marvelous food and a lovely atmosphere and is among the favorites of many a Boulderite. Dinner entrees start at \$9 for a traditional croque monsieur to \$16 for the Mateo bouillabaisse or lobster ravioli with herb fondue and watercress. Try the French onion soup gratinee and hearts of romaine with anchovy-garlic dressing and Parmesan cheese. Standout main courses: the porcini mushroom risotto with Parmesan; Provençal tomato and olive tart with fresh mozzarella; and braised Colorado lamb shank with soft polenta, roasted vegetables and lamb jus. Mon-Fri 11:30am-2pm, 5pm-10:30pm; Sat-Sun 5pm-10:30pm. Reservations recommended.

Red Lion Restaurant**U**

38470 Boulder Canyon Dr., (303) 442-9368

A Boulder tradition. Game meats and European specialties in a mountain setting, located up Boulder Canyon. Great early-bird specials.

INTERNATIONAL/ECLECTIC***Aji****P**

1601 Pearl Street, 303-442-3464

Opened in 2005, this Latin American restaurant has been an instant hit serving cuisine that features the rich flavors of the colorful cultures of Latin America, with a fresh ceviche bar, an extensive list of exotic cocktails,

including various mojitos and infused liquors and an excellent selection of South American wines. Lunch and dinner 7 days a week 11am -10pm. Reservations recommended.

The Mediterranean

P

1002 Walnut Street, 303-444-5335

Cuisine from France, Italy, Greece, and Spain—tapas, paella and pizzas baked in a wood-burning oven, and chicken, seafood, steaks, salads, and pasta. Full bar, microbrews, and a diverse wine list. A great happy hour with fantastic and inexpensive tapas. Validated parking. Open for lunch Mon-Sat 11 am-3 pm; and dinner Mon-Wed 5-10 pm, Thurs-Fri till 11 pm, Sat 4-11 pm, Sun till 10 pm.

Ras Kassa's Ethiopian Restaurant

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2111 30th St Ste E, (303) 447-2919

The authentic Ethiopian food at this Boulder eatery is well worth the wait and crowded dining room. Backless stools surround masabs, small basket tables were you eat with your hands, dipping injera (spongey, crepe-like, Ethiopian sourdough bread) into the various entrees. Complex flavors are drawn from simple foods like red lentils and butternut squash, The menu is divided into vegetarian and non-vegetarian sections—it's very easy to avoid meat here. Open daily 11-10pm. Lunch buffet 11am-2pm.

Centro Latin Kitchen

P

950 Pearl Street, 303-442-7771

Latin kitchen and refreshment place. Enjoy a seat in the warm rustic dining room or at their unique indoor/outdoor bar while you munch on Cheesy Smoked Pork Belly Masa Cakes or The Fish Caldo, blue crab, fish, mussels, tomato & chiles. Compliment your meal with one of the amazing pisco sours or a cucumber limeade. Lunch Mon-Fri 11:30-4; Happy Hour Everyday 3:00-5:30 & Sun 9pm-11; Dinner Everyday at 4; Brunch Sat & Sun 9:30am - 3:00

ITALIAN

Antica Roma

1308 Pearl St. 303-449-1787

P

Ambiance! Like a neighborhood trattoria, they have a veranda overlooking the Pearl Street Mall and dining room decorated like an Italian piazza. They offer a relaxed and charming atmosphere with an authentic Italian menu including local ingredients. Daily 11:30am-10pm.

Bacco Trattoria and Mozzarella Bar

1200 Yarmouth Ave (on North Broadway). 303-442-3899

New, with great reviews so far including from me. Lots of cheeses and salumi, in generous portions. Traditional pastas, meats, seafood and more. Pizzas I've heard are wonderful. Nice happy hour.

Carelli's

L

645 30th St., 303-938-9300

One of Boulder's best kept secrets, hidden in a 'strip mall', it's not an impressive place from the outside. However, once inside, it is warm and pleasant. The food is wonderful, the service is great, and the price is surprisingly reasonable. Lunch and dinner.

Alba Ristorante

L

2480 Canyon Blvd., (near McGuckin's), 303-938-8800

Northern Italian. Replacing the Full Moon Grill with a new name and location, Alba features many of the same menu items still prepared by chef Greg Keesy and sous chef Eric Lee. The name change however reflects the inspiration from the "gastronomic heartland" of the Langhe wine-producing zone in Piemonte, where wine and white truffles reign. Former Full Moon favorites, including the polenta and pear with Gorgonzola sauce and the crispy duck breast, join new Alba menu items such as thin-crust pizzas and an interesting selection of antipasti offerings.. Lots of free parking. Open for lunch Mon-Fri 11:30am-2pm; dinner daily Sun-Thurs 5:30-9pm, Fri-Sat till 10pm. Reservations recommended.

***Frasca**

P

1738 Pearl St., 442-6966

This restaurant is special because it was opened in mid-2004 by French Laundry alums (thought by some to be the best restaurant in the US). Frasca is a neighborhood restaurant inspired by the cuisine and culture of Friuli, Italy. Executive chef-owner Lachlan MacKinnon-Patterson (one of ten of Food & Wine's Best New Chefs in 2005), serves dishes such as the shaved pork plated with Colorado peaches and smoky pancetta, and the big-eye tuna salad haloed with a deviled egg sauce. Tue-Sat 5:30pm-10pm. Reservations hard to come by (often one month wait). However, if you go before they open the doors at 5:30 (I'd say 5:10), and get in line, you may snag

one of the two 2-person tables or 10 barstools set aside for walk-ins. Monday nights offer a special prix fixe tasting menu, which tends to be around \$30 (2005).

Laudisio Ristorante Italiano

1710 29th Street (in the 29th St. Mall district) 303-442-1300

World-class regional Italian cuisine, local Colorado specialties, and an assortment of the freshest seafood and pizzas. available. Enjoy cocktails and antipasto, then try the spicy penne arabiata, the tender chicken francese, or the risotto di mare with a glass of wine from the extensive wine list. Awarded "Best of Boulder" by two local papers for 10 years straight, and recipient of "Best Award of Excellence" from the Wine Spectator (1993-2000). Open every day 11-10pm.

Radda Trattoria

1265 Alpine Ave., 303-442-6100. Next to Ideal Market in North Boulder at Broadway.

Opened by the same chef as Mateo (which is wonderful and was written up in the NY Times dining section Feb/07 along with Frasca and The Kitchen). I've had appetizers and wine and that was great. Comfortable, lots of smaller plates to mix and match and a versatile menu. I can tell I'll love this one. They don't take reservations so you will likely have to wait since it's very popular.

JAPANESE

Ai Sushi and Steak

L

1117 Pearl Street, (in the 29th St. Mall district) 473-4730

Decent sushi (although the others are better) and a habachi table with filet mignon, shrimp, scallops, lobster and chicken grilled to perfection in front of \ guests at the communal tables. The items are sliced, diced and flipped into the air while fires light and onion volcanoes erupt, combining the dining experience with an entertaining show. Lunch specials. Open Mon-Sun: Lunch 11:00am-2:30pm; Dinner 5:00-10:00pm.

Hapa

P

1117 Pearl Street, 473-4730

Japanese food with an upbeat, high-tech décor. Sushi bar as well as lovely main dishes. Outdoor patio. Mon-Wed 11:30am-10pm; Thu-Sat 11:30am-close; Sun 5pm-10pm.

Japango

P

1136 Pearl Street, (303) 938-0330

This techno-chic sushi place offers an escape from the bustle of Pearl Street Mall. Servers know their sushi and skillfully accommodate large crowds that swell during happy hour. Fresh, melt-in-your-mouth sushi; traditional and unique as well as a long list of traditional appetizers includes light tempura, dynamite lobster and beef gyozas. A bowl of tempura ice cream makes a fitting ending to the meal. Mon-Thu 11am-2:30pm and 5pm-10pm, Fri 11am-2:30pm and 5pm-11pm, Sat 12pm-2:30pm and 5pm-11pm, Sun 5pm-9pm.

Kasa Japanese Grill and Bar

1468 Pearl Street, (303) 938-8888

Close to the true taste of Japan. Skewered meats cooked over a rare charcoal grill (a Binchotan). Delicious, fresh, artistic, sushi. Traditional marinades and sauces. Unique décor designed by renowned architect, Edward Suzuki, features ceiling made entirely of white Japanese umbrellas. Lunch: 11:30am-2:30pm, Dinner: 5:00pm-10:00pm. Closed Monday.

Sushi Tora

P

2014 10th St., (303) 444-2280

Sushi Tora provides one alternative to the larger and louder sushi joints in the area. A local favorite. Traditional with great sushi and service. Tue-Wed 11:30am-2pm; Wed 5pm-10pm; Thu-Fri 11:30am-2pm, 5pm-10pm; Sat-Sun 5pm-10pm.

Sushi Zanmai

P

1221 Spruce Street, 303-440-0773

Sushi prepared by skilled chefs at the full-view sushi bar. Entrees include tempura, yakitori, teriyaki salmon, sukiyaki, salad with mixed organic greens, vegetarian dishes, and specialties such as tuna carpaccio, shrimp dynamite, LSD roll, death roll, Buddha roll, and the favorite Z-No. 9 roll. Open for lunch Mon-Fri 11:30am-2pm; dinner Sun-Fri 5-10pm, Sat till midnight. Can get lively.

STEAK

Boulder Chophouse and Tavern

P

921 Walnut Street, 303-443-1188

Finest cuts of poultry, beef and seafood, an enormous wine selection, upscale service, and a classy, conservative atmosphere. Filet mignon and Porterhouse steaks, chicken piccata, and daily vegetarian, fresh seafood, and grill choices. Fine cigars. Boulder Weekly readers' 2002 pick for "Best Meat." Open daily at 11:30 am for lunch and dinner.

Boulder Cork

3295 30th Street, 303-443-9505

Southwestern/continental. A long-standing favorite of local carnivores and slightly more upscale than Boulder Chophouse. Prime rib, steaks, seafood, lamb loin chops, and pastas. Open for lunch and dinner.

MEXICAN/SOUTHWESTERN

Rio Grande

P

1101 Walnut St., (303) 444-3690

This popular Boulder restaurant serves "clean and healthy" Mexican food. They are particularly known for their strong margaritas, of which they limit guests to three. Mon-Wed 11am-2pm and 5pm-10pm; Thurs 11am-2pm and 5pm-10:30pm; Fri & Sat 11am-10:30pm; Sun 11am-10pm.

Tahona

P

1035 Pearl St., (303) 938-9600

Boulder's first tequila bistro. Yucatan and regional Mexican inspired cuisine. Tequilas are great, food is average. Dinner at 5pm every evening.

Zolo Grill

L

2525 Arapahoe Avenue, 303-449-0444

Delicious southwestern cuisine, many vegetarian items, award-winning desserts, extensive wine list, microbrews, margaritas, and more than 60 tequilas. Open for lunch and dinner Mon 11 am-9 pm, Tues-Sat till 10 pm; dinner only Sun 4-9 pm. Reservations not accepted.

NATURAL/VEGETARIAN

Leaf Vegetarian Restaurant

P

2010 16th Street, 303-442-1485

Small, serene, and nothing like the vegetarian restaurants of the 1960's. Lovely, unique dishes in small plates, salads/soups and entrees. M-F 11:30-3pm; Brunch Sat and Sun. 10-3pm; Happy Hour 3-6pm every day; Dinner Fri-Sat 5-10pm.

SEAFOOD

Jax Fish House

P

928 Pearl Street, 303-444-1811

Fresh seafood prepared in a contemporary American way with southern, Cajun, and Asian influences. Oyster bar and seafood samplers, fried oysters, peel-and-eat shrimp, steamed mussels and clams, chowders and gumbo, and a variety of grilled fish, cioppino, steaks and vegetarian dishes. Excellent martini, wine, beer, and cocktail list. Named "Top Seafood Restaurant in the Rocky Mountain Region" (Zagat Survey) and "Best Seafood Restaurant 2002" by Boulder Weekly readers. Opens daily at 4 pm. Reservations not accepted.