

Delicious Dining

Authentic Kentucky cuisine is an eclectic mix of Irish, Native American, English and African influences. Local specialties include spoonbread, Derby Pie, Hot Browns and burgoo. In addition to Kentucky favorites, you'll find a variety of top-notch restaurants serving up everything from Japanese, Caribbean and Cajun to German, Italian and Mexican.

The following is just a sampling of the area's independently owned restaurants. Chain restaurants are not included here.

Be sure to call ahead for reservations, particularly on weekends and during racing season.

LEXINGTON RESTAURANTS

a la lucie

Romantic downtown restaurant with Parisian flair. Inventive Continental menu. Specialties: glazed duck breast, grilled Bourbon Tabasco® marinated pork chops.
Entrees \$15 to \$25
159 North Limestone Street
859/252-5277



Alfalfa Restaurant

This eatery has been “doing the veggie thing” since the 1970s. “Hoppin’ John” and buckwheat pancakes are local favorites.
Entrees \$5.50 to \$15
141 East Main Street
859/253-0014

Annabelle's

Cosmopolitan dining in the heart of the historic restaurant district. The Kentucky Egg Rolls appetizer filled with barbeque pork and vinegar slaw is mouth-watering!
Entrees \$17 to \$27
127 North Limestone
859/381-0900

Atomic Cafe

Colorful, top-quality Caribbean restaurant. Conch fritters, coconut shrimp and jerk chicken are as lively as the crowd.
Entrees \$9.95 to \$15.50
265 North Limestone Street
859/254-1969

Bellini's

Beautifully appointed eatery serving diverse, authentic Italian Cuisine. Try the Penne alla Vodka e Panna Rosa.
Entrees \$16 to \$26
115 West Main Street
859/388-9583

Billy's Hickory-Pit Bar-B-Q

Lexington's original purveyor of Western Kentucky-style barbecue. Choose from pork, beef, mutton or chicken. Be sure and order some “dillickles”.
Entrees \$5.79 to \$14.99
101 Cochran Road
859/269-9593

Cheapside Bar & Grill

With a Southwest dining room, Victorian pub and tropical patio, Cheapside has plenty of atmosphere(s)! A true downtown hot spot for happy hour.
Entrees \$7 to \$20
131 Cheapside
859/254-0046

deSha's

A great all-around when everybody's in the mood for something different. Famous cornbread and a great Hot Brown. View of Triangle Park. Entrees \$11.95 to \$26.95
Victorian Square
101 North Broadway
859/259-3771

Dudley's

Award-winning restaurant in restored 19th-century school building with an excellent Continental menu and extensive wine list. Elegant dining room, cozy bar, outdoor patio. Entrees \$8 to \$35
380 South Mill Street
859/252-1010

Garden Cafe

Charming cafe overlooking the gardens of Flag Fork Herb Farm. Sandwiches, soups and desserts feature fresh-grown ingredients. Entrees \$5.50 to \$7
900 North Broadway
859/233-7381
859/252-6837

Giuseppe's Ristorante Italiano & Bar

Traditional and nouveau cuisine in a contemporary atmosphere. Try their Tira Misu, voted "Best Dessert in the Bluegrass." Entrees \$13.95 to \$24.95
4456 Nicholasville Road
859/272-4269

Greentree Tearoom

Luncheon tea noon Wednesday through Saturday, afternoon tea 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Other times by appointment. Fine period furnishings for sale. Reservations required. Set menu \$18.95
521 West Short Street
859/455-9660

Harvey's

Bustling downtown bistro by day, lively cocktail spot by night. Popular with both students and professionals. Eclectic sandwiches, soups, salads. Entrees under \$10
200 West Main Street
859/226-9333

Jalapeno's

Mexican classics plus inventive specials like Cochinita Pibel - roast pork with pickled red onions and beans. Entrees \$5.99 to \$12.95
295 New Circle Road NW
859/299-8299
1030 South Broadway
859/281-5171

Joe Bologna's

A Lexington institution since the 1970s. The place for sublime pizza and pasta favorites. The setting is a former Jewish temple, a heavenly counterpoint to the sinful breadsticks. Entrees \$6.35 to \$11.25
120 West Maxwell Street
859/252-4933

Jonathan at Gratz Park

Redefined regional cuisine at Historic Gratz Park Inn. Try the King Crab cornbread cakes and sea scallop Hot Brown. Elegant dining room, intimate bar. Entrees \$14.95 to \$30.95
120 West Second Street
859/252-4949

Kashmir Indian Restaurant

Aromatic curries and an amazing variety of breads await you at this family-owned restaurant. Popular lunch buffet. Entrees \$7.95 to \$15
341 South Limestone
859/233-3060

Le Deauville

Sharing the name of Lexington's sister city, this charming restaurant brings authentic French cuisine downtown. Very chic! Entrees \$19 to \$25
199 North Limestone
859/246-0999

Lynagh's Irish Pub

Popular university watering hole that serves juicy burgers and substantial sandwiches. Entrees \$4.50 to \$7.95
384 Woodland Avenue
859/255-1292

Malone's

Casual yet upscale meat-lover's paradise. Filet mignon, prime rib, New York strip, ribeye, porterhouse cuts. Oscar's next door is Lexington's only seafood and piano bar. Wide selection of wines and cigars. Entrees \$12 to \$35
Lansdowne Shoppes
3347 Tates Creek Road
859/335-6500

*The Mansion
at Griffin Gate*

Enjoy fine Continental cuisine and excellent service at this Old South mansion. Lexington's first and only four diamond restaurant. Signature entree: Tournedos Helder. Entrees \$18 to \$38
1720 Newtown Pike
859/288-6142

Marikka's

Authentic German food, from schnitzels to wursts, plus 500 types of beer. Partake in billiards and darts after dinner. Entrees \$7.95 to \$11.45
411 Southland Drive
859/275-1925

Merrick Inn

Prime beef, fresh seafood and fine wines in a classic Williamsburg setting. Southern fare with innovative nightly specials. Entrees \$16.95 to \$28.95
Merrick Place
3380 Tates Creek Road
859/269-5417

Metropol

This intimate restaurant featuring elegant upscale cuisine is housed in a small white building dating back to 1825. The Lobster Ravioli is a favorite. Entrees \$16 to \$27
307 West Short
859/381-9493

Nadine's

Upscale, energetic and fun, often packed with Keeneland fans. Favorites: white lasagna, sesame seared tuna. Entrees \$15 to \$28
3955 Harrodsburg Road
859/223-0797

Natasha's Café

Spacious urban bistro with elegant international cuisine. Buffet style at lunch, table service in the evening. Entrees \$9 to \$25
112 Esplanade Downtown
859/259-2754

*Paisano's Italian
Ristorante*

Romantic Italian restaurant and lounge. Favorites: veal, seafood pasta and pizza. Entrees \$6.95 to \$15
2417 Nicholasville Road
859/277-5321

Parkette Drive-In

An honest-to-goodness 1950s drive-in. The place for a double-decker burger "Kentucky Poor Boy" and real onion rings. Entrees \$2.50 to \$4.50
1230 New Circle Road NE
859/254-8723

Pazzo's Pizza Pub

Their calzones are outstanding. Sauces and dough made fresh daily, and 22 beers on tap. Right on the edge of UK's campus. Entrees \$5.45 to \$19.50
385 South Limestone
859/255-5125

Portofino

Sophisticated downtown restaurant serving artful Italian cuisine. Outdoor patio. Entrees \$18 to \$29
249 East Main Street
859/253-9300

Portabella's

Casual kid-friendly dining. Pasta and wood oven pizza. Char-grilled steak, fish and portabella mushrooms. Entrees \$7 to \$15
115 North Locust Hill
859/266-6836

Ramsey's Diner

Good old-fashioned comfort food: pot roast, meat loaf, chicken and dumplings, southern veggie dishes. Hot Brown once voted "Best of the Bluegrass."
Entrees \$7.95 to \$9.95
Five locations, the original is at 496 East High Street.
859/259-2708

*Regatta
Seafood & Grille*

Some of the freshest seafood in town. Bottomless salad served with all entrees. Try the apple pie, chosen three times as Lexington's best.
Entrees \$8.95 to \$32.99
161 Lexington Green Circle
859/273-7875

Stanley J's

Authentic New York deli fare. Corned beef, pastrami, lox, potato salad, chicken salad. All entrees under \$10
Stonewall Shopping Center
3101 Clays Mill Road
859/224-3354

Tachibana

Truly authentic Japanese cuisine. Excellent sushi. Try the yellowtail and spider rolls.
Entrees \$10 to \$17
785 Newtown Court
859/254-1911

**REGIONAL
RESTAURANTS**

Beaumont Inn

Run by the Dedman family for four generations. Traditional Kentucky cooking. Menu includes: "yellow-legged" fried chicken, country ham, corn pudding.
Entrees \$8 to \$23
638 Beaumont Inn Drive
Harrodsburg, KY
800/352-3992, 859/734-3381

Boone Tavern

Combine crafts shopping with a generous meal. Signature items: "Chicken Flakes in a Bird's Nest" (creamed chicken in a fried-potato basket), delicious spoonbread, Race Day Pie.
Entrees \$10.95 to \$23.95
Main Street, Berea, KY
800/366-9358, 859/985-3700

The Glitz

Located in a 32,000-square foot antiques shop. Elaborately decorated. Try the Nonesuch Kiss – a baked meringue filled with mocha ice cream, hot fudge and almonds.
\$17.95 for complete meal.
4205 Ford's Mill Road
Nonesuch, KY
859/873-7235

Holly Hill Inn

On the National Register of Historic Places. Fresh seasonal ingredients and local produce are at the heart of the three course prix fixe menu. \$35
426 North Winter Street
Midway, KY
859/846-4732

*Shaker Village
of Pleasant Hill*

Traditional specialties in the beautiful simplicity of Shaker Village. Southern crudites are followed by entrees like country ham and fried chicken. Try the Shaker lemon pie.
Entrees \$9 to \$25
3501 Lexington Road
Near Harrodsburg, KY
800/734-5611, 859/734-5411

