

Host Committee Recommendations

City of New Orleans official visitor's guide: <http://www.neworleansonline.com/>

AREA TRANSPORTATION

From Louis Armstrong International Airport:

1) AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Shuttle service to and from downtown New Orleans hotels every day of the year (except from 2 AM - 3:30 AM), with vans departing approximately every 30 minutes. Purchase ticket(s) in person at the Airport Shuttle Ticket Desk, on the ground level across from baggage claim areas 3, 6 and 12, or make a reservation by calling (866) 596-2699. \$20 one-way, \$38 round trip for adults and children 6 and older; children under 6 ride free: www.airportshuttleneworleans.com.

2) TAXIS

A cab ride costs \$33.00 from the airport to the Central Business District (CBD)/French Quarter for one person and \$14.00 (per passenger) for three or more passengers. Pick-up is on the lower level, outside the baggage claim area. There may be an additional charge for extra baggage.

There are no cab stands in New Orleans and it is nearly impossible to flag a cab down in the street (unless you are by a major hotel where the bellmen can often help). If you need a cab it is best to call one of the local companies below. United Cab is the largest and most reliable.

United Cabs Co.: 504-522-9771

Checker-Yellow: 504-943-2411

Coleman Cab Co.: 504-586-0222

White Fleet Cab Co.: 504-822-3800

Yellow-Checker Cabs: 504-525-3311

Getting Around Town:

1) TAXIS: See above

2) STREETCARS:

There are three different lines: St. Charles (which takes you uptown), Canal Street (which goes north to City Park), and the Riverfront (from the French Quarter to the Convention Center along the river). One-way fares are \$1.25 and can be paid with exact change when you board. One, 3 and 31-day unlimited ride passes are also available for \$3, \$19 and \$55 respectively. For route information see www.norta.com.

3) BUSES:

City bus lines can get you to most any part of town... if you are willing to walk and perhaps make a couple of transfers. Bus Route 11 on trendy Magazine Street is perhaps the most attractive. Fare is \$1.25 one-way. There are 30 bus routes throughout New Orleans. See maps and schedules at <http://www.norta.com>.

Geography:

If you ask a local for directions, there will be no south, north east or west! Locals navigate by the river and lake. So we go towards the lake, towards the river, uptown (which is upriver) or downtown (which is downriver). The lake (Lake Pontchartrain) is definitely north of us. The river (the Mississippi) curves, but is south of us for the most part. To head uptown usually means to go west. To head downtown usually means to go east.

Life's Necessities:***Walgreen's Drugstore***

900 Canal St. Across the street from the hotel. Open 7AM-midnight. Offers just about everything necessary to sustain life in a pinch, including soft drinks, water, and beer to stock up your mini bar.

Rouse's Supermarket

701 Royal St. About 6 blocks from the hotel. Open 6 AM – 1 AM. Deceptively small from the outside, this is a full service supermarket with very reasonable prices and a well-stocked wine and liquor department.

Matassa's Market

1001 Dauphine St. About 10 blocks from the hotel. (504) 412-8700. A smaller, family-owned store with fewer selections than Rouse's... but they deliver. <http://www.matassas.com/>

Coffee Shops/Breakfast in the French Quarter:

All coffee shops serve light pastries/croissants throughout the day

CC's Coffee House

941 Royal St., 504-581-6996. Gourmet coffee chain from a local roaster. Excellent coffee. Open 7 AM – 9 PM.

Cafe Au Lait

307 Chartres St., 504-528-9933. A charming coffee house near galleries and restaurants, about 5 blocks from the hotel.

Café Beignet (three locations, all serve full breakfast all day)

334 Royal St., 504-524-5530 (about 4 blocks from the hotel)

311 Bourbon St., 504-525-2611 (about 3 blocks from the hotel)

Café du Monde

800 Decatur St., 504-525-4544 The oldest and most revered coffeehouse in New Orleans serving only the traditional chicory-laced coffee, hot chocolate, and beignets. Open 24 hours for those late-night sugar rushes.

Croissant d'Or

617 Ursulines St., 504-524-4663. Parisian simplicity, elegance and fabulous pastries on a quiet back street. About 14 blocks from the hotel, but worth the walk.

En Vie

1241 Decatur St., 504-524-3689. Polished brash and broad windows amid boutiques.

La Boucherie Coffee House

339 Chartres St. 504-581-6868. Very cheerful space and a great kitchen supplement the coffee experience.

Royal Blend

621 Royal St., 504-523-2716. An almost hidden courtyard and quiet refuge in the heart of the Quarter.

RESTAURANTS

Average price of a dinner entrée: \$= <\$15; \$\$= \$15-\$20; \$\$\$=\$21-30; \$\$\$\$= \$30 and above

Late-Night= ●

Great for Lunch=L

Great for Drinks=^

Vegetarian-friendly options=V

Nota Bene: New Orleans is considered one of the top three food destinations in the world... and the most affordable dining site in the US. We take our food seriously and compiling this brief guide has not been easy. We encourage you to check the New Orleans official tourism site

<http://www.neworleansonline.com/>, the Zagat guide to New Orleans, <http://www.zagat.com/new-orleans>,

and the New Orleans board at Chow Hound, <http://chowhound.chow.com/boards/9>. Also, see the New

Orleans food glossary at [http://www.fodors.com/world/north-america/usa/louisiana/new-](http://www.fodors.com/world/north-america/usa/louisiana/new-orleans/feature_30002.html)

[orleans/feature_30002.html](http://www.fodors.com/world/north-america/usa/louisiana/new-orleans/feature_30002.html) Also note that in New Orleans many hotels have extraordinary restaurants as well and that we have a number of celebrity chefs to follow: Emeril may be a bit passé, but John Besh is *au courant*... and you'll find all his restaurants listed here.

The focus of this guide is on the more affordable eateries relatively close to the hotel. For upscale, we focused on places in the French Quarter/CBD/Marigny, but could not resist adding a handful of great restaurants in uptown (a short cab ride away). There are many more wonderful restaurants and bars in these and other areas to explore; there just wasn't enough space to list them all. Do check the websites above.

Central Business District (CBD)/French Quarter/Faubourg Marigny (Sort of) Walking distance from hotel)

CASUAL (alphabetical)

Acme Oyster House \$\$ L

724 Iberville St, between Bourbon and Chartres streets in the French Quarter 504-522-5973

www.acmeoyster.com

The most traditional place to eat local oysters (which are safe to eat, even more so in a month with an "R" in it); slurp them raw at the marble topped bar or get them fried on a po'boy or platter. No reservations.

Sun-Thu 11AM-10PM; Fri-Sat 11AM-11PM

Angeli \$ ● V

1141 Decatur, in the French Quarter 504-566-0077

The huge windows are perfect for watching the parade of Decatur Street's pierced, tattooed, and woozy nightlife while you nosh on pizza, burgers, or Middle Eastern appetizers. The kitchen stays open late on weekends. Open Sun-Thurs 11:00-2:00am; Fri-Sat 11:00-4:00 AM. Delivery until 2 AM.

Bennachin \$ V

1212 Royal St. (French Quarter) 504-522-1230

One of the city's few truly African restaurants. Beef stews are terrific and are served with rice or mashed yams, which you traditionally eat with your hands. Vegetarian options include black-eyed-pea fritters, and spicy sautéed spinach served with plantains and coconut rice. Exposed-brick walls and African wall hangings surround about a dozen tables and a small open kitchen. No liquor served, BYOB is OK. Cash only. Mon –Thur., 11:00- 9:00 PM. Fri-Sat, 11:00-10:00 PM. Sun., 11:00-9:00 PM.

Café Maspero \$ L

601 Decatur (French Quarter, by the River) 504-523-6250 <http://cafemaspero.com/>

The low prices, big portions, and neighborhood camaraderie at the bar keep people coming back. Pastrami and corned beef are local favorites. There's typically a line for lunch... skip it and sit at the bar. Open Mon-Thu, Sun 11:00-10:00 PM; Fri-Sat 11:00-11:00 PM.

Central Grocery Company \$ L

923 Decatur St. (French Quarter, by the River) 504-523-1620

A classic Italian grocery store and the home of what many consider the best Muffaletta sandwich in town. Open Tue-Sat 9:00-5:00 PM.

Clover Grill. \$ ●

900 Bourbon St., French Quarter 504/598-1010 <http://www.clovergrill.com/>

As much a scene as a restaurant, this classic diner in the heart of the Quarter's gay section serves up waffles, omelets, and hamburgers grilled under abandoned hubcaps to devoted locals and the post-disco set. Open 24 hours.

Cochon \$\$ ^

930 Tchoupitoulas St (CBD) 504-588-2123 www.cochonrestaurant.com

A native Louisianan from Acadiana, Chef Donald Link prepares classic and innovative Cajun dishes.... many obviously pork-based and prepared in his in-house Boucherie. The fried boudin with pickled peppers is exquisite as is the cochon au lait. Don't miss the specials of the day. Next-door is "Butcher," which sells Chef Link's pork products as well as light appetizers and sandwiches and wonderful wines by the glass. The setting is casual in both. Monday-Thursday: 11:00 AM-10:00 PM. Friday-Saturday: 11:00 AM-11:00 PM. Closed Sunday.

Coop's Place \$ ● ^

1109 Decatur St. (French Quarter) 504-525-9053 www.coopsplace.net

Since 1982, Coop's Place has delighted locals and visitors alike with its cozy (scuzzy?) atmosphere and great food. Just steps from the French Market, it is a great place to meet some local characters in a pub setting. Free wireless too. Open Daily 11:00-2:00 AM

Crescent City Brew House \$\$ ^

527 Decatur St. (French Quarter) 504-522-0571 <http://www.crescentcitybrewhouse.com>

Great selection of beers brewed on site. Features German inspired cuisine as well as Creole and Cajun food (with a focus on the latter, especially seafood...great mussels). One of the few places to eat/drink where you can have a view of the Mississippi. Open Monday - Thursday, Noon-10:00 PM; Friday-Saturday, 11:30 AM to 11:00 PM, Sunday 11:30 AM to 10 PM.

Drago's \$\$

2 Poydras St. (At Hilton New Orleans Riverside, about 8 blocks from hotel) 504-584-3911
www.dragosrestaurant.com

The Cvitanovich family Drago's restaurant in Metairie has been a fixture for 40 years and is famous for its charbroiled oysters and Southern Italian pasta recipes. This branch location in the Hilton hotel is just as good as the original. Monday-Sunday, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM.

Green Goddess \$\$ V ●

307 Exchange Place (French Quarter) 504-301-3347 <http://www.greengoddessnola.com/>

An absolutely funky and delightful small restaurant tucked away in an alley that serves some of the most creative dishes in town at lunch and dinner (note their odd hours, however) coupled with equally imaginative cocktails. No reservations. Open Wed-Sunday 11 AM – 9 PM.

Gumbo Shop \$

630 St. Peter St. (French Quarter) 504- 525-1486 <http://www.gumboshop.com/>

Housed in a restored 1794 Creole cottage adjoined to a tiny garden patio, the Gumbo Shop offers a hit parade of traditional and contemporary Creole classics, the best of which is the gumbo. There are two versions, seafood and chicken andouille, not to be missed. Lunch and dinner daily.

GW Fins \$\$\$

808 Bienville Street (French Quarter) 504-581-3467 <http://www.gwfins.com/>

The focus here is on seafood, seafood and more seafood, ranging from gumbos and bouillabaisse to every kind of fish available in the market. The chef is inventive, the staff knowledgeable and the décor attractively modern. Dinner: 5:00-10:00 PM Sun thru Thurs and 5:00-10:30 PM Fri.& Sat.

La Peniche \$ •

1940 Dauphine St. (Faubourg Marigny, about 1.2 miles from the hotel) 504-943-1460.

A cult classic and a short stroll from the music clubs of Frenchmen Street, La Peniche is the post-party kitchen of choice among musicians and various hipsters. Pancakes, omelets, and burgers, along with local specialties like red beans and rice, are the standard fare. Closed Tuesday night through Thursday morning

Mimi's in the Margny . \$ • ^

2601 Royal St., (Bywater., an OK walk from the Marigny/Frenchman Street bar scene, but you'll probably want to cab back to the hotel (1.8 miles). 504-872-9868

This hip, friendly bar serves up a delicious menu of hot and cold tapas such as mushroom Manchego toast, grilled pork tenderloin with guava sauce, and salmon with saffron aioli. Nosh on a cheese and olive plate or serrano ham and chorizo plate until 2 AM on weekdays and 4 AM on weekends while listening to great music. Bar open daily from 4pm • Kitchen open daily from 6pm

Mother's Restaurant \$ L

401 Poydras Street at the corner of Tchoupitoulas St. (CBD, about 10 blocks from hotel) 504-523-9656

<http://www.mothersrestaurant.net/>

Great hole-in-the-wall restaurant famous for its po'boys sandwiches, especially the Fergie (roast beef). More appropriate for lunch than dinner. Be prepared for a line at peak times. 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday-Sunday.

Napoleon House \$ L ^

500 Chartres St. (French Quarter) 504.522.4152 <http://www.napoleonhouse.com>

A unique café and bar, with possibly the best ambiance (and the best Pimm's Cup) in New Orleans. They serve food Monday 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Tuesday-Thursday 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM, Friday-Saturday, 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM.

Palace Café \$\$\$ ^

605 Canal Street (French Quarter, less than two blocks from the hotel) 504-523-1661

<http://www.palacecafe.com>

Located in a lovely New Orleans landmark – the old Weirlein's musical instrument store – this is a big bustling Brennan family restaurant that serves very good classic and contemporary Creole food. Lunch Mon.-Sat., 11:30-2:30 PM. Sunday Brunch, 10:30- 2:30 PM. Dinner Nightly, 5:30-10:00 PM. Bar Service continuous (limited menu between 2:30-5:30 PM).

Port of Call \$ •

838 Esplanade Avenue (French Quarter, on the edge of the Faubourg Marigny) 504-523-0120

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

Cool bar and restaurant with a great juke box. Arguably the best hamburgers in the city (unfortunately lots of people seem to know this). Expect to wait at least thirty minutes for a table at peak times. Open Sunday-Thursday, 11 AM – midnight (with the possibility of last seating at 11:30 pm); Friday and Saturday, 11 AM - 1 AM (with the possibility of last seating at 12:30 AM). Please be aware that this restaurant's hours are not set in stone.

Red Fish Grill \$\$\$

115 Bourbon St (French Quarter) 504-598-1200 <http://www.redfishgrill.com/>

A brash, bustling place that always seems to be crowded, this is another popular Brennan family restaurant. Seafood is, of course, the centerpiece of the menu including a wide variety of Gulf fish (the Pecan Gulf Fish is spectacular). Lunch Daily: 11:00 -3:00 PM. Dinner: Mon. – Thurs., Sun., 5:00- 10:00 PM. Oyster Bar, Mon.-Thurs., Sun., 11:00-10:00 PM. Dinner & Oyster Bar (Fri. & Sat.) 5:00-11:00 PM.

Rémoulade \$ •

309 Bourbon St. (French Quarter) 504-523-0377 www.remoulade.com

Run by the owners of the posh Arnaud's, Rémoulade is more laid-back and less pricey. It serves the same Caesar salad and pecan pie, as well as a few of the signature starters: shrimp Arnaud in rémoulade sauce, baked oysters, turtle soup, and shrimp bisque. The marble-counter oyster bar and mahogany cocktail bar date from the 1870s; a dozen oysters shucked here, paired with a cold beer, can easily turn into two dozen, maybe three. Tile floors, mirrors, a pressed-tin ceiling, and brass lights create an old-time New Orleans environment. Open daily, 11:30 AM-11:00 PM.

Rio Mar \$\$

800 S. Peters St. (CBD/Warehouse District) 504/525-3474 www.riomarseafood.com

One of the best tapas-style places in town, featuring primarily seafood. Chef Adolfo Garcia's reflects his Panamanian heritage with several stunning ceviches (order the sampler to try them all). The stew-like zarzuela of seafood, with chunks of fish and shellfish in a peppery red broth, is divine. It's all tapas at lunch, when you tick off your selections on a small menu card: salty Spanish ham, roasted peppers, Manchego cheese, and marinated seafood. Lunch: Mon-Fri, 11:30-2:00 PM. Dinner: Mon-Sat, 5:30-10:00 PM. Happy Hour: Mon-Fri, 5-7 PM.

Stanley \$ L

547 St. Ann St. (French Quarter) 504-587-0093 <http://stanleyrestaurant.com/>

Located right on Jackson Square this all-day dining establishment is run by Chef Scott Boswell (Stella!) and offers a delightful breakfast, brunch and sandwich menu, including homemade traditional sodas. Open 7AM to 10 PM. Breakfast and brunch served all day. No reservations.

UPSCALE: The following are more elegant and typically more expensive restaurants where jackets will not be out of place. Reservations are highly recommended.

a Mano \$\$\$

870 Tchoupitoulas Street (CBD/Warehouse District) 504-208-9280 <http://www.amanonola.com/>

Featuring house-cured salumi, hand-crafted pastas, and long-simmered dishes, this warm and welcoming trattoria is a recent addition to the New Orleans food scene and has already been named among the top ten new restaurants of 2010. The insalata di mare, grilled crostini with ricotta and chile oil, supple gnudi, Piedmont-style, balsamic drizzled flat-iron steak are outstanding. Lunch: Fri. 11:30-2:30 PM. Dinner: Mon.-Sat., 6:00-10:00 PM.

August \$\$\$\$

301 Tchoupitoulas St. (CBD, just a couple of blocks upriver from Canal Street, about 7 blocks from the hotel) 504-299-9777 www.restaurantaugust.com

John Besh's flagship restaurant rarely disappoints and most frequently amazes. The setting is simply glorious, with shimmering chandeliers and rich fabrics, but the service is not at all stuffy. Everything is rather special: handmade gnocchi with blue crab and winter truffle shares menu space with slow-cooked pork belly and butter-poached main lobster with black truffles. Lunch: Friday 11AM- 2 PM. Dinner Nightly: 5:30-10:00 PM.

***Antoine's* \$\$\$\$**

713 St. Louis St. (French Quarter) 504-581-4422 www.antoines.com

One of the great, classic New Orleans restaurants (in business since 1840) with a cadre of faithful regulars and colorful history. Oysters Rockefeller were invented here. Other famous classic dishes are the pommes de terre soufflées (fried potato puffs), pompano en papillote (baked in parchment paper), and baked Alaska. A jacket is preferred.

Sunday Jazz Brunch 11:00- 2:00 PM; Lunch 11:30-2:00 PM, Monday thru Saturday; Dinner 5:30-9:30 PM Monday thru Saturday.

***Arnaud's* \$\$\$**

813 Rue Bienville (French Quarter) 504.523.5433 www.arnauds.com

One of the grand dames of New Orleans cuisine, serving classic Creole food in a beautifully restored turn of the century dining room just steps off Bourbon Street. Open from 6 PM, 7 nights a week.

***Bayona* \$\$\$**

430 Dauphine St (French Quarter) 504-525-4455 www.bayona.com

Chef Susan Spicer's "New Word" cuisine never fails to delight. Set in an elegant Creole cottage (if the weather permits ask for a table in the romantic courtyard), this jewel of a restaurant serves imaginative Louisiana inspired cuisine. Lunch: Wednesday-Saturday 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM. Dinner: Monday-Saturday from 6 PM. Closed on Sundays.

***Bombay Club and Martini Bistro* \$\$\$ ^ ●**

830 Conti St. (French Quarter) 504-586-0972 <http://www.thebombayclub.com/menus.html>

Located in the elegant Prince Conti Hotel, the Bombay Club offers the most refined food you'll find in the French Quarter after 10 PM. Port-soaked lamb chops, a signature crawfish and tasso chowder and pancetta-wrapped diver scallops are some of their signature dishes. Needless to say, the martinis are superb. Restaurant: Sunday-Thursday 4:00PM-10:00PM, Friday-Saturday 4:00PM-12:00PM. Bar: 4:00PM-close.

***Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse* \$\$\$\$**

716 Iberville (French Quarter) 504-522-2467 www.dickiebrennansteakhouse.com

Clubby and luxurious, many consider this the best traditional steakhouse in town. If you want meat this is the place to get "straightforward steaks with a New Orleans touch." Dinner Nightly, 5:30-10:00 PM; Lunch: Friday only, 11:30-2:30 PM.

***Domenica* \$\$**

123 Baronne Street (CBD, only three blocks from the hotel) 504-648-6020

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

Recently opened in the newly restored Roosevelt Hotel, Domenica offers a type of Italian rustic regional food that is rarely seen here. The menu ranges from wood-fired pizzas, handmade pastas, and fritto misto to slow-roasted goat, excellent lasagna, monkfish and wonderful desserts. This is yet another wonderful John Besh establishment. Open daily, 11:00AM-11:00 PM.

***Galatoire's* \$\$\$\$ ^**

209 Bourbon St. (French Quarter) 504-525-2021 <http://www.galatoires.com/>

Another grand dame of old New Orleans. Excellent (but not stuffy) service, accompanied by impeccable Creole food. Beware the (quite possibly inebriated) locals at lunchtime on Fridays. Jackets required (and even provided) for gentlemen. Reservations accepted for upstairs dining room only. Locals line up to see and be seen in the downstairs dining room. Dining Room Open: Sunday, Noon-10:00 PM; Tue.-Sat. 11:30-10:00 PM. Bar: Sun. 11:30 AM-til; Tue.- Sat. 11:00 AM-til.

Herbsaint \$\$\$ ^

701 St Charles Ave (CBD) 504-524-4114 www.herbsaint.com

Only a short walk (about 9 blocks) from Canal St., Herbsaint offers upscale food at moderate prices. Helmed by Chef Donald Link, the food is inventive, robust and flavorful. Don't miss the homemade pasta or fabulous shrimp bisque. Small plates are also served throughout the day and at the bar. Great sidewalk seating, weather permitting. Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30-1:30 PM. Bistro: 1:30-5:30 PM. Dinner: Mon-Sat 5:30-10:00 PM. Closed Sunday

Lüke \$\$\$ ^

333 St. Charles Avenue (CBD, right before Poydras st., about 5 blocks from the hotel) 504.378.2840
<http://www.lukeneworleans.com>

A John Besh restaurant, inside the Hilton St. Charles Hotel, this is a fabulous old-style brasserie with inventive food that never fails to please. The seafood is always fabulous; the French fries served in a cone are out of this world. French, German and Louisiana influences produce distinctive entrées. The bar also serves a wide assortment of cocktails and liqueurs, including several kinds of absinthe. Open daily, 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

Muriel's Jackson Square \$\$\$

801 Chartres St. (French Quarter, right on Jackson Square) 504-568-1885

<http://www.muriels.com/html/home.html>

Muriel's is easily the most ambitious, in both atmosphere and menu, of the many restaurants around Jackson Square. In the large downstairs rooms, quaint prints and architectural relics evoke the city's colorful past, while diners in comfy chairs indulge in hearty updated renderings of old Creole favorites. The menu is diverse: from the seafood and andouille-sausage-stuffed mirliton to the pecan-crust puppy drum with Louisiana crab relish. Lunch: Mon.-Sat., 11:30- 2:30 PM. Sunday Jazz Brunch: 11-2:00 PM. Dinner: Mon,-Fri. 5:30-10 PM; Sat.-Sun. 5:00-10 PM.

Stella! \$\$\$\$

1032 Chartres St. (French Quarter, near Ursulines) 504-587-0091 www.restaurantstella.com

Considered among the most upscale of New Orleans restaurants, Stella! offers an eclectic "world cuisine" menu influenced by Louisiana traditions. The lobster mushroom risotto and duck five ways entrée are simply to die for and the seven course tasting menu sheer delicious extravagance. Dinner only: Weekdays 5:30-10:00 PM, Weekends 5:30-10:30 PM.

Uptown/Garden District Restaurants

You will have to take a cab to these, but they are worth the splurge. Again these are but a handful of the dozens of extraordinary restaurants uptown... Do call for reservations.

Brigtsen's \$\$\$

723 Dante St. (Uptown) 504-861-7610 www.brigtsens.com

Chef Frank Brigtsen's dishes represent some of the best south Louisiana cooking anywhere. Everything is fresh and deeply flavored. Try the butternut shrimp bisque, the deeply satisfying roux gumbos and the rabbit and chicken dishes. For dessert, the bread pudding is worth every calorie. Dinner: Tue.-Sat. 5:30-10:00 PM.

Clancy's \$\$\$

6100 Annunciation Street (Uptown) 504-895-1111

Beloved by locals, Clancy's is elegant and understated. Its menu features imaginative treatments of New Orleans favorites. Among its specialties are fried oysters topped with melted Brie, filet mignon in Madeira sauce, and sautéed fish in cream sauce flavored with crawfish stock. Lunch: Thurs.-Fri., 11:30–2:00 PM. Dinner, Mon.-Sat. 5:30–10:30 PM.

Commander's Palace \$\$\$\$

1403 Washington Ave. (Garden District) 504-899-8221 www.commanderspalace.com

The most famous of New Orleans' restaurants, and for good reason. It is well-worth a getaway from downtown, especially if you can wrangle a table in the upstairs Garden Room. The menu includes classics like sugarcane-grilled pork tenderloin, turtle soup (a must have), and fabulous seared gulf fish. Don't forget to order the bread-pudding soufflé. Weekend brunches are a New Orleans tradition. Weekday lunches are a bargain, especially given that martinis are 25 cents.... Casual business attire, jackets are preferred at dinner. Lunch: Mon.-Fri, 11:30-2:00 PM. Dinner: Mon.-Sun., 6:30-10:00 PM. Jazz Brunch: Sat., 11:30AM-12:30 PM, Sun. 10:30AM-1:30 PM.

Jacques-Imo's Café \$\$

8324 Oak Street (Uptown) 504-861-0887 www.jacquesimoscafe.com

The innovative food at Jacques-Imo's is well worth the inevitable wait (reservations are taken only for groups of five or more) in the crowded (but very lively and friendly) bar. Among the offerings, deep-fried roast beef po'boys, alligator sausage cheesecake, Cajun bouillabaisse, and smothered rabbit over grits are only-at-Jacques-Imo's specialties. Dinner only: Mon.-Thur., 5:00-10:00 PM; Fri.-Sat., 5:00-10:30 PM.

The Upperline \$\$\$

1413 Upperline St. (Uptown) 504-891-9822 <http://www.upperline.com/>

Another local favorite, this beautiful restaurant housed in an old shotgun structure serves fantastic classic and contemporary Creole dishes such as fried green tomato with shrimp remoulade, cane river country shrimp, and roast duck with garlic port sauce. The walls are covered from floor to ceiling with Louisiana folk art collected by owner JoAnn Clevenger who will always stop by your table to say hello. Dinner only: Wed.-Sun., 5:30-10:00 PM.

Bars/Music:

Check the bar guide at <http://www.nola.com/bar-guide/>, the extensive listings in *The Gambit* (local weekly) and *Offbeat* magazine <http://www.offbeat.com/> for current music offerings. This is just a very short (and idiosyncratic) list of some on NOLA's classic bars and music venues. You can't go far in New Orleans without running into a bar or music... It's a good idea to just walk through Bourbon Street over to Frenchman Street right on the other side of Esplanade avenues (the edge of the Quarter). That is the best bar/music scene in town right now.

Bacchanal

600 Poland Ave. (Bywater, take a cab) 504-948-9111

Treme has filmed at this 9th Ward wine bar with daily live music. Cheese plates and international cuisine are on the menu by Chef Joaquin Rodas. Great courtyard with outdoor seating. Open 11 AM – Midnight. Food and wine served all day; kitchen open Monday-Sunday 11 AM – 11 PM; Friday and Saturday 11 AM - Midnight. Live music every night.

Balcony Music Club

1331 Decatur St. (French Quarter) 504-599-7770

Located right where the Frenchmen Street scene begins, this music hall houses everything from brass bands to salsa ensembles to rock 'n' roll on its main stage and patio every night of the week.

Bar Tonique 820 N. Rampart St., 504-324-6045; www.bartonique.com

This low-key lounge spins inventive cocktails in a dark, intimate setting tucked into the Quarter's edge. Drink specials are posted on the chalkboard.

Blue Nile

532 Frenchmen St. 504-948-2583

Ritzy blue and gold decor sets the mood for this music club located in an 1832 building, reportedly the first constructed on Frenchmen Street. The club offers a full bar and live national and international bands perform in venues upstairs and down.

Cafe Laffite In Exile

901 Bourbon St. (French Quarter) 504-522-8397

Claiming to be the oldest gay bar in the United States, Laffite in Exile features the best video bar in the Quarter and is a favorite meeting place. Upstairs is a chic and sleek game room with pinball machines, pool tables and Internet access.

Cane and Table

1113 Decatur St. (French Quarter) 504- 581-1112

Bright courtyard, pleasant atmosphere and creative rum-centered drink menu. The cuisine takes its inspiration from seaports up and down the Atlantic and Caribbean.

Carousel Piano Bar & Lounge (Monteleone Hotel) 214 Royal St., 523-3341; www.hotelmonteleone.com

Downtown socialites and happy hour revelers are always ready to go for a spin at the magnificent Carousel Bar. Yes, it does revolve.

Cosimo's

1201 Burgundy St. (French Quarter) 504-522-9715

Tucked away in a residential corner of the French Quarter in a Creole cottage, Cosimo's is a spacious neighborhood bar where you can drink like the locals do.

d.b.a. 618 Frenchmen St., 504-942-3731; www.dbaneworleans.com

Excellent draft and bottled beer selection and premium liquor choices. This is the best Frenchmen Street go-cup destination.

Howlin'Wolf

907 Peters St. (French Quarter) 504-522-9653

A mural by local artist Michalopoulos covers Howlin' Wolf's exterior and tells a tale of New Orleans music. Inside, top local acts and touring bands play in a spacious room lined by facades salvaged from old shotgun houses

House of Blues

225 Decatur St. (French Quarter) 504-310-4999

Designed to feel like a Delta juke joint, this club features local, national and international bands and a gospel brunch on Sunday. Bands play in the main venue downstairs and The Parish, a smaller room upstairs, with bars open only when music plays. Other times, you can drink in the restaurant or the courtyard and explore the 268 pieces of folk art hanging on the walls. Open daily.

Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop

941 Bourbon St. (French Quarter) 504-593-9761

Atmospheric piano bar in an 18th century corner cottage that is frequented by locals and tourists alike. It has a small patio with banana trees and a sculpture by the late Enrique Alferez (whose work also decorates City Park).

Oz

800 Bourbon St. (French Quarter) 504-593-9491

This spacious dance club has a demographic skewed to young gay men, but also draws a good sized straight crowd, largely because of the scarcity of good dance floors in the French Quarter. Open 24/7...

Palm Court Jazz Cafe

1204 Decatur St (French Quarter) 504-525-0200

Good for traditional jazz.

Rubyfruit Jungle

1135 Decatur St. (French Quarter) 504-373-5431

Landmark lesbian bar in a new, three-story location that caters to a lesbian and mixed crowd, with two dance floors, spiral staircases, and a balcony over Decatur Street.

Sazerac Bar

123 Baronne St. (CBD, only 3 blocks from hotel) 504-648-1200

One of the most famous bars in Louisiana, located in the newly renovated Roosevelt Hotel, the Sazerac has been open since 1893. It was Huey P. Long's favorite hangout and continues to serve the best Sazerac and Ramos Gin Fizzes cocktails.

Snug Harbor

628 Frenchmen St. (Faubourg Marigny) 504-949-0696 www.snugjazz.com

Contemporary Jazz; shows are usually at 9 and 11.

Sweet Lorraine's

1931 St. Claude Ave. (Take a cab), 504-945-9654; www.sweetlorraines.com

The 7th Ward jazz club caters to music lovers and sophisticated drinkers with a touch of Creole elegance. Great happy hour, live music later.

The Spotted Cat

623 Frenchmen St. (Faubourg Marigny) <http://www.spottedcatmusicclub.com/>

Jazz, funk, and blues bands perform nearly every night, with early-afternoon sets weekends, at this rustic club right in the thick of the Frenchmen scene.

Tipitina's

501 Napoleon Ave. (Uptown) (504) 895-8477 <http://www.tipitinas.com>

The classic contemporary music venue.

Tommy's Wine Bar

752 Tchoupitoulas St. (CBD) 504-581-1103; www.tommysneworleans.com

Spacious and refined after dinner hang-out. Features a deep wine list, many wines are available by the glass.

Vaughan's Lounge

4229 Dauphine St. (Bywater; take a cab), 504-947-5562

Further immortalized by HBO's *Treme*, Vaughan's Lounge has always been a super-casual neighborhood spot kept on radar by Kermit Ruffins' not-to-be missed Thursday night jazz jams and barbecuing.

Yuki Izakaya

525 Frenchmen St. (Faubourg Marigny) 504-943-1122

New Orleans's only Japanese-style tavern offers a taste of its homeland, with red and black decor, Japanese movie posters and Japanese films screened on the back walls some nights. There also are DJs and live music. Sake and shochu are the favored libations, and there are ginger beer and coconut-lemongrass sake. Japanese tapas are available and there is outside seating.

OTHER ENTERTAINMENT, ATTRACTIONS AND SHOPPING

Film

Entergy IMAX® Theatre

1 Canal St. (French Quarter) 504- 565-3020 www.auduboninstitute.org/imax.html

The wonders of nature are magnified at Entergy IMAX® Theatre, where larger-than-life adventures explode with the help of the world's most advanced motion picture technology. Located next door to Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, it is one of only six in the world with its spectacular flat screen, single projection, IMAX® 3D and high-definition capabilities.

Prytania Theatre

5339 Prytania St. (Uptown) 504-891-2787

The city's last single-screen movie house, hidden in an Uptown residential area. It shows first-run mainstream films and the occasional independent feature.

The Theatres at Canal Place

333 Canal St. 3rd Floor (French Quarter) <http://www.thetheatres.com/>

The Theatres at Canal Place were recently renovated from the ground up to incorporate "dining" into the all-digital film experience. Chef Adolfo Garcia's Gusto, a cafe and bar at The Theatres at Canal Place, features small plate meals and snacks that can be brought into the theatre and enjoyed in spacious black-leather chairs.

Zeitgeist Multidisciplinary Arts Center

1618 Oretha C Haley Blvd. (Central City, take a cab) (504) 352-1150 <http://www.zeitgeistinc.net/>

The Zeitgeist has been bringing alternative art to New Orleans since November 1986 and operates without any paid staff or public funds. It presents film, video, performance art, visual art and literary events six nights a week, year-round and is considered one of the premiere alternative arts center in the South. It is also the main venue of "Patois: New Orleans International Human Rights Film Festival" and the "New Orleans Middle East Film Festival."

Other Arts

See <http://artsneworleans.org/> for current listings of all art events taking place in the city. You can also find a listing of art galleries, which are mostly located in the French Quarter, along Royal and Chartres streets, in the Warehouse District, and along Magazine street

Mahalia Jackson Theater of the Performing Arts

1419 Basin St., in Armstrong Park (Tremé) 504-287-0351

A Post-Katrina \$27 million renovation has returned the lights to this famous stage. Now equipped with a 21st-century sound system, a digital cinema screen, enhanced lighting, a new orchestra shell, and a cutting-edge ballet floor, the 2,100-seat theater plays hostess to the Louisiana Philharmonic Symphony,

the New Orleans Opera Association, the New Orleans Ballet Association, the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, Broadway shows, and much more.

Le Chat Noir

715 St. Charles Ave. (CBD, next door to Herbsaint restaurant) 504-581-5812 www.cabaretlechatnoir.com
A state-of-the-art performance space, where the night's entertainment might be a touring torch singer, a comedy revue, a campy movie spoof, or Varla Jean Merman, the gender-bending chanteuse and frequent Chat Noir guest. An elegant and eclectic venue with an urbane audience.

Le Petit Théâtre

616 St. Peter St. (French Quarter) www.lepetittheatre.com
The oldest continuously running community theater in the United States occupies a historic building in the French Quarter and puts on quality plays year-round.

Southern Repertory Theater

504-522-6545 www.southernrep.com
A well-established theater company specializing in first-rate contemporary theater productions.

Contemporary Arts Center

900 Camp St. (Warehouse District) 504-528-3805 www.cacno.org
A multi-disciplinary arts center dedicated to the presentation, production and promotion of the art of our time.

Museums/Attractions: Again, this is just a brief listing. Check <http://www.neworleansonline.com/> under the “Things to Do” tab for an exhaustive listing.

New Orleans Museum of Art

In City Park 504- 488-2631 www.noma.org
Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Mondays

Ogden Museum of Southern Art

925 Camp Street – just off Lee Circle (CBD/Warehouse District) 504-539-9600 www.ogdenmuseum.org
Wednesday- Monday, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

New Orleans African American Museum

1418 Gov. Nicholls St. (Treme) 504-566-1136 www.noaam.org
The New Orleans African American Museum is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and promoting through education the history, art, and communities of African Americans in New Orleans and the African diaspora.

Newcomb Art Gallery

Woldenberg Art Center, Tulane University (Uptown) 504-865-5328 www.newcombartgallery.tulane.edu
Nestled among the live oaks of Tulane University's uptown campus, the Newcomb Art Gallery is a small gem of a museum that encourages visitors to learn about the art of different times, places, and peoples through a diverse array of exhibitions and programming.

The National World War II Museum

945 Magazine St. (Warehouse District) 504-528-1944 www.nationalww2museum.org

A must-see for history lovers, it has been designated by the U.S. Congress as the country's official World War II Museum. Powerful images and extraordinary artifacts bring to life the American Spirit, the courage, teamwork and sacrifice of the young men and women who won the war and changed the world. From the 1930s prelude to war, to the Normandy Invasion and the battles of the Pacific Islands, visitors trace America's role in the war and on the Home Front. If you need to have lunch, stop by John Besh's The American Sector cafeteria inside the museum.

Historic New Orleans Collection

533 Royal St. (French Quarter) 504-523-4662 www.hnoc.org

The Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC) has a mission of preserving the French Quarter and New Orleans history. Its Royal Street Complex features seven architectural treasures.

The Backstreet Cultural Museum

1116 Henriette Delille St. (Treme) 504-522-4806 www.backstreetmuseum.org

The Backstreet Cultural Museum holds an amazing assortment of memorabilia indigenous to Mardi Gras, jazz funerals and other traditions found only in New Orleans.

Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World

1380 Port of New Orleans Pl., (by the Convention Center) 504-361-7821 www.mardigrasworld.com

Take a guided tour of the world of Mardi Gras as seen through the perspective of Blaine Kern, the biggest designer and builder of floats in the world.

Old Ursuline Convent

1100 Chartres St. (French Quarter) 504- 525-9585 <http://www.oldursulineconvent.org/>

Ursuline Convent is the oldest building in the Mississippi River Valley. Completed in 1752, it is also the oldest surviving example of the French colonial period in the United States. Often referred to as the Archbishop Antoine Blanc Memorial Complex, the Old Ursuline Convent also houses the rich Archdiocesan archives. The building is known as the "treasure of the archdiocese".

Shopping

New Orleans is great for boutique shopping. There are countless wonderful stores selling antiques, cool art, new and vintage clothing and one-of-a-kind jewelry. The main shopping corridors are Royal and Chartres streets in the French Quarter, Frenchman Street in the Marigny, and all along Magazine street, especially from Jackson Avenue all the way uptown to Henry Clay Avenue. If you have the time, get a day bus pass and get on and off the Magazine bus as cute boutiques and/or antique stores catch your attention. For upscale shopping, nothing beats the mall at Canal Place, anchored by Saks Fifth Avenue. Nearby is Rubensteins, (102 St. Charles Ave.) a glorious haberdashery and Meyer The Hatter (120 St. Charles Ave.), the South's largest hat store. Either at Canal Place or at the main store at 3801 Magazine St., don't neglect to admire and maybe acquire some of Mignon Faget's exquisite (and relatively affordable) jewelry pieces inspired by New Orleans architecture and nature. Last but not least, Saturday and Sunday are the days to catch the French Market – a combination of produce, tourist stuff (t-shirts etc), and remarkable art and vintage collections – and the artists working and selling their wares around Jackson Square.