

Matt's Unofficial, Select, and Opinionated New Haven Restaurant Guide

For a city of its size, New Haven has an amazing selection of restaurants. Selections in this guide are primarily from the downtown New Haven area and are within walking distance from the Omni Hotel. I would look at these selections as one person's suggestions rather than a comprehensive guide to New Haven eateries.

Each description includes the name, address, phone number, and estimated costs and travel time. Cost is noted with a "\$" with each "\$" equaling around \$10. I.e. a restaurant with "\$\$" listed as a cost means that a meal there could cost up to \$20. The cost estimates are based on the dinner price so lunch costs are generally lower. Please remember these are estimates.

Almost all restaurants accept Visa and MasterCard but not necessarily other charge cards. Please phone ahead to inquire about other forms of payment, special needs, directions, or reservations.

A note on some New Haven originals: New Haven claims many things, perhaps most important is the claim of the first burger and the first pizza. Louis' Lunch is where you get a burger from the place that claims to have invented it. This is definitely a place to go if you are on a burger pilgrimage (and really, who isn't), but trust me, do not ask for ketchup (just think of the soup nazi from Seinfeld).

New Haven also claims the first pizza and they are mighty proud of their pies with more than 60 pizzerias in town. With their ultra-thin crusts they cannot be compared fairly to pizzas from places like Chicago—it is like comparing apples and oranges. Pepe's and Sally's get all the glory, but Modern is the best. (And no, I don't know why they call it "apizza" and yes, it is kind of lame.)

Enjoy.

Anna Liffey's
17 Whitney Ave., New Haven, 773-1776
Good Irish food stand-bys and live
traditional Irish music Sundays at 3:30 p.m.
and Mondays at 8:30 p.m.
\$\$ 20 min walk

Archie Moore's Bar and Restaurant
188 1/2 Willow St., New Haven, 773-9870
When you think Buffalo wings in New
Haven, you think Archie Moore's.
\$\$ 10 min by car

Bangkok Gardens
172 York St., New Haven, 789-8684
Some of the best Thai food in New Haven
with good lunch specials and speedy
service.

\$\$ 15 min. walk

Bentara Restaurant
76 Orange St., New Haven, 562-2511
The restaurant features a huge selection of
Malaysian specialties, including dishes such
as ayam percik (grilled marinated boneless
breasts of chicken with coconut, turmeric
and lime BBQ sauce) and kerutuk (slices of
beef or chicken or mix of tofu, Chinese
eggplants and carrots simmered in a
mixture of spices--coriander, fennel seed,
cinnamon, cardamom, star anise and
chilies--with potatoes and coconut milk).
\$\$ 10 min. walk

Bruegger's Bagels
1 Whitney Ave., New Haven, 773-3199

It offers variety, sharp flavors, a clean, well-lit environment and funny sandwich names (like the Thai Kwon Do).

\$ 20 min. walk

Caffe Adulis

228 College St., New Haven, 562-3993

The Eritrean restaurant across from the Schubert Theater that started an African food scene downtown; it also has been a magnet for celebs, community people, you name it. Best African food in the advocate and vegetarian friendly.

\$\$ 6 min. walk

Claire's Corner Copia

1000 Chapel St., New Haven, 562-3888

The vegetarian restaurant of the cookbook fame. Try the Lithuanian coffee cake--my god it is good.

\$ 5 min. walk

Lalibela Ethiopian Restaurant

176 Temple St., New Haven, 789-1232

Good African food with a lunch buffet

\$\$ 5 min. walk

Louis' Lunch

261-263 Crown St., New Haven, 562-5507

A true New Haven landmark where they claim to have made the first burger ever. Burgers here are served on toast and trust me, do not ask for ketchup (just think of the soup nazi on Seinfeld).

\$ 8 min. walk

Mamoun's Falafel Restaurant

85 Howe St., New Haven, 562-8444

Falafel, baba ghanouj, shish kebab, baklava and other Middle Eastern basics, served hot and tasty at a more-than-reasonable price.

\$ 20 min. walk

Miya Japanese Restaurant

68 Howe St., New Haven, 777-9760

Shushi

\$\$ 20 min. walk

Modern Apizza Place

874 State St., New Haven, 766-5306

Simply the best pizza in New Haven. Thin crust and brick oven baked without the lines (and hype) of the other big name pizzerias.

\$--\$\$ 10 min by car

Nirvana

148 York St., New Haven, 776-8644

Indian entrees priced well above nearby competitors, but with quality worth the extra investment. The lunch buffet might be a better priced option.

\$\$ 15 min walk

The Pantry

2 Mechanic St., New Haven, 787-0392

Breakfast to die for. Think French toast or feta spinach omelet. I think they have food at other times, but why would you want to miss their breakfast?

\$ 10 min by car

Pepe's Pizzeria Napoletana

157 Wooster St., New Haven, 865-5762

Yawn. Big name, good pizza, and long waits.

\$--\$\$ 20 min. walk

Pika Tapas

39 High St., New Haven, 865-1933

This Spanish restaurant's main feature is tapas, small appetizer-sized dishes that taste good but add up. Reservations are necessary.

\$\$\$ 10 min. walk

Polo Grille

5 Elm St., New Haven, 787-9000

Best wine in town with 850 selections by the bottle, 40 by the glass, with a California concentration and an Italian influence

\$\$\$ 15 min. walk

The Rib House

16 Main St., East Haven, 468-6695

Stop reading, go to your car, drive to 16 Main Street in East Haven and eat these ribs then send me a big thank-you card. Better yet, take me with you.

\$\$--\$\$\$ 15 min. by car

Roomba

1044 Chapel St., New Haven, 562-7666
Nueva Latina cuisine with entrees such as
Citrus-Ginger Tuna Loin and Jamaican-style
Barbecued Salmon. The deserts are
fantastic. Reservations are necessary.
\$\$\$ 10 min walk

Scoozi
1104 Chapel St., New Haven, 776-8268
Upscale Italian food with great food and
great service. Reservations are necessary.
\$\$\$ 10 min. walk

Sally's Apizza
237 Wooster St., New Haven, 624-5271
Yawn. Big name, good pizza, and long
waits.
\$--\$\$ 20 min walk

Sandra's Place
636 Congress Ave., New Haven, 562-4535
Chopped barbecue, chitlins, smothered pork
chops, fried chicken, collard greens and
fried okra—a bit of Alabama right here in
New Haven. They also often have a food
cart on weekdays in the Medical Center with
yummy selections without the, um,
adventurous neighborhood.
\$\$ 10 min by car

Tandoor Restaurant
1226 Chapel St., New Haven, 776-6620
This is where I get takeout. Yummy Indian
food.
\$ 20 min walk

Thai Taste
1151 Chapel St., New Haven, 776-9802
Not speedy, but good.
\$ 15 min walk

Tibwin Grill
220 College St., New Haven, 624-1883
I admit it. I have never been here, but it
looks so good and gets great reviews, so I
want to live (eat) vicariously through you all.
\$\$\$ 8 min. walk

Tre Scalini
100 Wooster St., New Haven, 777-3373
A lucky restaurant—every time I have an
interview meal here I get the job. A top of
the line Italian place with a lovely décor.
Definitely a place to experience.
\$\$\$ 10 min by car

Whitney Donut and Sandwich Shop
2574 Whitney Ave., Hamden, 248-0921)
A Hamden legend with apple cider donuts
and a meat loaf sandwich that is to die for
too.
\$ 20 min by car

Yankee Doodle Coffee Shop
258 Elm St., New Haven, 865-1074
Very, very cheap and the butter-slathered,
relish-laden burgers have been a Yale
tradition for 50 years.
½\$ 20 min. walk

Coffee Shops

Koffee?
104 Audubon St., New Haven, 562-5454
276 York St., New Haven, 787-9929
The York Street location is the unofficial
meeting place of the Yale University Library
and is a 15 min walk.

Starbucks
1068 Chapel St., New Haven, 624-3361
Ubiquitous, boring, over-priced, but still
good coffee. 10 min. walk.

Willoughby's
1006 Chapel St., New Haven, 789-8400
258 Church St., New Haven, 777-7400
A local favorite that has weathered the
competition. Chapel street location is a 10
min. walk.

Restaurants by type

African

Caffe Adulis

Lalibela Ethiopian Restaurant

American

Archie Moore's Bar and Restaurant

Louis' Lunch

The Rib House

Tibwin Grill

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Chinese

East Buffet

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Tandoor Restaurant

Irish

Anna Liffey's

Japanese/Shushi

Miya Japanese Restaurant

Latin American

Pika Tapas

Malaysian

Bentara Restaurant

Middle Eastern

Mamoun's Falafel Restaurant

Soul Food

Sandra's Place

Thai

Bangkok Gardens