

*Welcome to Houston! William and I are so happy and thankful you are here to help us celebrate our wedding.*

*Here is a quick guide to my hometown that mostly revolves around dining. Please note, Houston lacks "zoning," so do not be surprised if you see a strip center with an upscale restaurant, a daycare, and possibly a smoke shop all in one spot. It's all part of the unique charm!*

*I hope you enjoy.*

*Analise*

Favorite Restaurants:

Overall:

- **Armando's**: Great Mexican food and great vibe in the heart of River Oaks. If you happen to come to town on Thursday and love a good margarita with a side of disco, this is the place for you. On Thursdays at 10 pm this restaurant turns into a club.
- **Bludorn**: Tucked in a historic old building off Taft Street, Bludorn perfectly balances Gulf Coast, New American, and French-inspired fare. The menus are comprised of seasonally rotating dishes, global wines, and handcrafted cocktails served in this neighborhood landmark.
- **Brasserie 19**: Locals will agree you really can't beat "B19" for lunch or brunch. Go here for amazing people-watching, a seafood tower, and an 11 am martini with a side of zero judgement.
- **BCN**: Romantic Spanish restaurant with tasty food. Check out its sister restaurant MAD for a more energetic vibe in River Oaks District. Fun fact: I loathed gin until I tried a Spanish gin and tonic from here. They're fantastic.
- **El Tiempo Cantina**: If you know, you know! Great Mexican food. Not fancy but can get pricey. Multiple locations.
- **Etoile**: Very good French food in Uptown Park in the galleria area.
- **Kata Robata**: Consistently great sushi and a Houston classic.
- **Le Colonial**: A River Oaks District hotspot features shareable Vietnamese cuisine amongst swanky French colonial decor. Head to the second level for a more relaxed lounge experience and some great people watching! Reservations recommended.
- **Paulie's**: A favorite casual lunch spot in River Oaks.
- **Rosie Cannonball**: Delicious modern Italian food. Highly recommend the pizza and dirty martini. Located in Montrose. Also check out its sister restaurant March. I've never been, so invite me if you snag a reservation!
- **State of Grace**: Another River Oaks gem. It combine elements of southern charm with big city energy. Go for oysters, a burger, and a glass of champagne.
- **Turner's**: Go here if you are feeling F A N C Y. It's quite pricey but the mood and atmosphere are unlike anything else in Houston. It resembles a New York restaurant, but with Texas hospitality.
- **Uchi and Uchiko**: Not unique to Houston, but still, some of the best sushi in town.

American/Steakhouses:

- *Georgia James*
- *B&B Butchers*
- *Brennan's*
- *Vic and Anthony's*
- *Pappas Bros. Steakhouse*
- *Steak 48*
- *Mastro's*

Italian:

- *Ostia*
- *Carrabba's (The original on Woodway or Kirby)*
- *Il Bracco*
- *La Griglia*
- *Da Marco*
- *Tony's*

Mexican:

- *Hugo's*
- *Goode Co Cantina*
- *MAD (Spanish food)*
- *Escalante's*

Indian:

- *Kiran's*
- *Pondicheri*

Lunch & Brunch:

- *Tiny Boxwood's*
- *Toulouse*
- *A'Bouzy*
- *Le Colonial*
- *Giacomo's Cibo E Vino*
- *Backstreet Café*
- *Brennan's*
- *Eunice*
- *Local Foods*

Breakfast:

- *Avalon Diner*
- *Common Bond Cafe & Bakery*
- *Bebidas*
- *Barnaby's*
- *Shipley's Donuts*

Nightlife:

### Cocktail Lounges:

- ***Julep***: One of the best cocktail lounges in Houston. But small, so go early!
- ***Anvil***: Tiny cocktail lounge in Montrose.
- ***Clarkwood***: quote from Eater Houston: “This sceney bar, housed in the historic Star Engraving Company building, is just over a year old, but has quickly become one of Houston’s hottest drinking spots.”
- ***Captain Foxheart’s Bad News Bar & Spirit Lounge***: This is a “speakeasy” in downtown Houston.
- ***Emilia’s Havana***: New Cuban inspired speakeasy lounge inside of The Annie in Post Oak. It’s very fun. You enter through the kitchen! Reservations are required and it’s pricey.

### Dive Bars:

- ***Lizard’s Lounge***: Heart of River Oaks dive bar. It’s a little grimy, but somehow always fun. Get a shot of tequila and a bucket of beer and settle in!
- ***EZ’s Liquor Lounge***: New heights dive bar giving Lizard’s a run for its money as the go to spot!
- ***Poison Girl***: Cool dive bar in Montrose.
- ***Dean’s Downtown***: Cool dive bar in downtown Houston.

### Sport’s Bars:

- ***Kirby Icehouse***: Same concept as Katy Trail Icehouse in Dallas for those familiar, but not a lot of shade here unfortunately! Still a good time.
- ***West Alabama Icehouse***: You get the idea. But this is the original icehouse in Houston!
- ***Rustic***: A Dallas favorite in Houston. They continue their penchant for locations near highways, but it’s still a fun time especially if there’s live music and a game going on.

### Shopping:

#### Overall:

- ***Saks Fifth Avenue***: Located at The Galleria.
- ***River Oaks District***: Upscale shopping where you can walk in and out of luxury stores and grab a bite to eat, or sip a mid-shopping cocktail at Toulouse, Le Colonial, or MAD.
- ***Tootsies***: Upscale women’s boutique with a great selection of clothing and accessories.
- ***Kuhl-Linscomb***: The most amazing gift store.
- ***St. Bernard***: An upscale “sports store” that feels nothing like Academy or Dick’s Sporting Goods.
- ***Sid Mashburn***: Beautiful men’s clothing store located in River Oaks.

### Culture:

If you have time, take a leisurely drive through Rice University’s campus. The live oak trees are stunning!

- ***Museum of Fine Arts (can also have lunch at the new restaurant Le Jardinier)***
- ***The Menil Collection and Rothko Chapel***

- *Memorial Park and Houston Arboretum*
- *Museum of Natural Science*
- *The Houston Zoo*
- *Spa day at The Houstonian*