Chapter 6
Drinking and Dining

There are some things we don't like about Baltimore, but the eating and drinking scene is not one of them. If you look hard enough, you will find that there is something for everyone, every season, and every mood. What's more, the process of looking for good places to eat is actually enjoyable, and affordable even on a grad student budget, so long as you are prudent and somewhat informed. We hope that what follows will clue you in to places around campus and beyond, maybe help you avoid an unpleasant experience or two, and encourage you to go out and experiment for yourself. We have tried to provide a wide variety of possibilities, ranging from the raucous, drinking-with-a-group-of-friends type of restaurants, to more subdued places where you can sit and study; places that will feed you when you're starving and broke, and restaurants you may want to visit with family or for a special occasion.

We have tried to be thorough about Charles Village, listing the good and bad, since you may be in imminent danger of eating at one of these places. For other areas, you'll notice we've mostly listed the better restaurants (as attributed in our very own rating system; see below). This is not because we're willing to eat just about anything (at least we aren't most of the time), but because we prefer to point out the places we really enjoyed and wanted to share with you. In addition, many of the less impressive restaurants from the last edition of the guide have since closed.

Our second disclaimer relates to taste: of course you may like something we didn't, or vice-versa. We have tried to be somewhat objective, taking into account factors such as the cost of each place and the freshness and quality of dishes, regardless of whether we like that particular cuisine. Please keep in mind that with regard to ethnic cuisine, good does not necessarily mean authentic. Again, we hope you will use this chapter as a guideline, and then find your own favorites.

In the first part of this chapter we list restaurants, bars, and coffeehouses by area, then by cuisine type. Next, we describe categories of special interest to grad students. Since brewing has always played an important role in Baltimore city life and we know that many grad students seek out unique, high-quality beers (and frankly because we just plain like them), we have provided a list of Baltimore brewpubs. We have also listed area wineries. Then we feature some of our favorite happy hours, brunches, and delivery options. Then we include an alphabetical guide that contains vital information such as phone numbers and addresses, as well as a description of each restaurant and bar. Finally, we have the best of guide according to citipaper. Some places we list have been reviewed more extensively in the Grad News. Check www.jhu.edu/gro/gradnews/gradnews.html for back issues in Adobe Acrobat format.

Rating Key
The stars indicate our assessment of the establishment. We consider food and drink quality, service, atmosphere, and price. Note that we rate each place for what it is: a five-star bar will have little in common with, say, a five star French restaurant.

***** This is an amazing restaurant and every person should try this restaurant
**** We like it a lot and would go out of our way to go back.
*** Good restaurant that we wouldn’t mind going back to.
** We like it enough to return, but wouldn't go out of our way to do so.
* We'd try other places first.

Price Key
The dollar signs represent the average price of an entrée. Adjust for drinks and appetizers accordingly.

$ up to $5.99
$$ $6 to $12
$$ $8 to $14
$$$$ $14 to $18
$$$$ $18 to $21
$$$$$ $21 and up

There are a couple of things to keep in mind as you browse this section. First, distinguishing a bar or a café from a restaurant is somewhat arbitrary. Many of the bars we include serve food; many restaurants serve liquor; and many cafés serve both. Second, we have not given a price rating to places that don't serve meals. (If you consider beer an entrée, you're probably not worried about the cost!)

Restaurants, Bars, & Cafés by Neighborhood

Charles Village
Adjacent to Homewood campus, Charles Village is populated largely by people affiliated with JHU: students (both grad and undergrad), faculty, and staff. Given the proximity to the university, one might suspect that Charles Village is actually capable of supporting more bars and restaurants than are actually here. Be that as it may, we have tried to be comprehensive in our listings, describing the bad as well as the good.

Bars
1.7th Generation *** $$
Charles Village Pub *** $$
Dizzie Issie’s *** $$
PJ's Pub *** $$
Rocky Run Tap and Grill *** $$$

Restaurants
Blimpie * $
C.C. Carryout ** $$
Gertrude's at the BMA **** $$$$$
Nam Kang **** $$$$$
New No Da Ji *** $$
Niwana *** $$

...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orient Express</td>
<td>** $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Moon Diner</td>
<td>**** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Chen Hong Kong Restaurant</td>
<td>** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Tuesday's</td>
<td>* $$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamber's Nifty Fifties Diner</td>
<td>** $$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-Jung Kwan</td>
<td>*** $$$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cafés**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Café Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donna's Coffee Bar</td>
<td>**** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GaGa's Ice Cream</td>
<td>*** $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Images Cards and Café</td>
<td>** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam's Bagels</td>
<td>*** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XandO Coffee and Bar</td>
<td>**** $$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hampden**

West of campus, Hampden has traditionally been a working class neighborhood, although a recent infiltration of art studios and antique shops give the area an eclectic flair that is truly Baltimorean. Hampden is home to some of the best food bargains to be found in Baltimore, and there is more variety available than you might think. Most establishments are on or near "The Avenue" (W. 36th St.).

**Bars**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bar Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frazier's on the Avenue</td>
<td>** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hon Bar</td>
<td>*** $$$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Restaurants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angelo's</td>
<td>**** $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Café Hon</td>
<td>*** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casa Mia's</td>
<td>**** $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden West Café</td>
<td>***** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Frijoles</td>
<td>**** $$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Grill</td>
<td>*** $$$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cafés**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Café Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mamie's Café</td>
<td>*** $</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Waverly**

East of Charles Village, this neighborhood is not one of the best in Baltimore. It does, however, offer a couple of restaurants that are real gems. So be careful (especially at night), but check out what Waverly has to offer.

**Restaurants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pete's Grille</td>
<td>***** $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai Restaurant</td>
<td>***** $$$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mount Washington**
Mt. Washington (located northwest of Homewood campus on Falls Rd) is a pleasant, wooded, upscale area (in a seemingly country-like setting) which boasts several places worth visiting. A notable few are Luckman Park, Baltimore Clayworks and Cylburn Arboretum.

**Bars**
Mt. Washington Tavern *** $$$

**Restaurants**
Crépe du Jour *** $$
Ethel and Ramone's *** $$/$$$ 
McCafferty's *** $$$

**Cafés**
Desert Café **** $$
Starbucks *** $$

**Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity**
For convenience, we have grouped several neighborhoods north of campus together here, bounded by University Pkwy to the south, Roland Ave. to the west, Northern Pkwy to the north, and York Rd. to the east. There are lots of attractive dining options on Cold Spring Lane in Roland Park, Canterbury (in the Homewood campus vicinity) and Belvedere square mall near “The Senator” movie theatre ([www.senator.com](http://www.senator.com)). The Roland Park area is perfect for walks on weekends with lots of greenery, quiet serpentine streets and beautiful houses. In addition, several trails run through this area for a short hike. Finally, no stay in Baltimore can be complete without watching a movie at “The Senator”.

**Bar**
Alonso's **** $$

**Restaurants**
Ambassador Dining Room/Banjara ** $$$$ 
Chow Mein Charlie's ** $$
Chipotle ** $$
Four West *** $$$$$
Jeannier's ** $$$$$
Miss Shirley's *** $$
Petit Louis Bistro *** $$$$$
Bangkok Place ** $$$
Bombay Garden *** $$
Egyptian Pizza *** $$
Saigon Remembered ** $$$

**Cafés**
Big Sky Bread Company *** $$
Café Zen ** $$$$ 
Evergreen Cafe ** $$
Towson

Towson is north of Baltimore. Driving north on York Rd. will take you into the heart of this town-turned-suburb. (Note: Taking Charles St. to Towsontown Blvd. is quicker.) If you do not have a care, the Colltown shuttle is a great alternative (http://www.colltown.org/asp/shuttle.asp). Home of Towson University and Goucher College, Towson has a number of quality restaurants and bars, making it possible to combine your shopping or bookstore browsing with a pleasant lunch or dinner. It also has the popular movie theatre, Towson Commons with $6.50 student tickets. Besides the well-known Towson town center mall, another budget-friendly alternative is the Towson place mall (1238 Putty Hill Ave; Houses stores such as Walmart, Target, Petsmart, ToysRUs, Marshalls, TJMaxx etc.; it also houses some restaurants such as Panera and Red Robin). In addition, lots of new restaurants are coming up on Allegheny Avenue in the vicinity of Towson Commons.

Bars
Champion Billiards Café * $$

Restaurants
Bahama Breeze *** $$$$  
Bel-Loc Diner ** $$  
Bill Bateman's Bistro ** $$  
Café Troia ** $$$  
Cluck-U Chicken *** $  
Fresh Fresh Seafood *** $$$  
Frisco Burritos *** $  
Kabob Hut *** $$  
Kathmandu Kitchen **** $$$  
Los Amigos *** $$  
Melting Pot ** $$$$$  
Orchard Market Café *** $$$$  
Pasta Mista *** $$  
Pavan Foods * $  
Pizzeria Uno ** $$$  
Purim Oak *** $$  
Rainforest Café ** $$$$  
Red Robin * $$  
Ruby Tuesday * $$$$  
San Sushi Too ** $$$$  
Strapazza *** $$  
Sushi Hana **** $$$$  
Szechuan House **** $$  
TGI Friday's * $$$  
The Golden Gate Noodle House *** $$
Towson Diner *** $$

Cafés
Barnes and Noble Bookstore Café *$$
Borders Books and Music Café ** $$
Donna's Coffee Bar ** $$
Einstein Bagels ** $$
Moxley's ***** $
Panera Bread *** $$

Mount Vernon
Centered on the Washington Monument, Mt. Vernon is one of the nicest truly urban neighborhoods in Baltimore. Easily accessible via the JHU shuttle, city bus, or cab, Mt. Vernon offers a plethora of restaurants, bars and cafés. And the variety is impressive: whether you're in the mood for Indian, Ethiopian, or ritzy New American cuisine, you'll find it in Mt. Vernon, not to mention drinking establishments catering to everyone from scruffy art students to martini-sipping businessmen.

Bars
Brewer's Art ***** $$
Buddies Pub and Jazz Club * $$
Dougherty's Irish Pub ** $$$
Harry's Impressions ** $$
Mick O'Shea's Pub **** $$
Mt. Royal Tavern *** $$
Mt. Vernon Stable ** $$
Owl Bar ***** $$$
Spike and Charlie's *** $$$$$
Thirteenth Floor **** $$

Restaurants
Akbar Restaurant ** $$$
Brass Elephant **** $$$$$$
Chinatown Cafe *** $$$
Club Charles **** $$
Cobbers *** $$$
Five Seasons **** $$$
Helmand ***** $$$
IXIA * $$$$$$
Kawasaki **** $$$$$
Kobe Teppan and Sushi **** $$$$$
Kumari **** $$
Martick's **** $$$$$
Minato *** $$
Mughal Garden **** $$
Paolo's ** $$
Sotto Sopra ** $$$$$$
Tapas Teatro ** $$
Thai Landing **** $$
Thairish **** $ 
Tio Pepe *** $$$$$
Tony Cheng's Szechuan Restaurant ** $$$
Women's Industrial Exchange *** 
XS ***** $$
Yabba Pot ***** $$
Zodiac *** $$$

Cafés
Café Isis (Al Pacino Café) ** $$
City Café ** $$$
Combalou **** $$
Ghion Ethiopian International Café *** $$

Inner Harbor
When we go to the harbor, we usually head either south to Federal Hill or Locust Point, or east to Fells Point or Canton to eat and/or drink, but there are some good places to dine or grab a drink in this tourist haven. If you're there on a summer weekend, be prepared to wait in line at most places.

Bars
Pickles Pub * $$
Red Maple ** $$$
ESPN Zone ** $$

Restaurants
Babalu Grill *** $$$
Caribbean Kitchen **** $$
Cheesecake Factory **** $$$
City Lights Seafood * $$$$$
ESPN Zone ** $$$
Faidley's Seafood ***** $$
Legal Sea Foods *** $$$$$
Lexington Market **** $$
McCormick and Schmick's ***** $$$$$
Peking House ** $$
Phillips Harborplace * $$$$$
Ruby Lounge *** $$$$$
Rusty Scupper *** $$$$$$
Capitol City Brewing Company ** $$$

Little Italy
The name speaks for itself. This area between the Inner Harbor and Fell's Point is home to a number of Italian restaurants and bars.

Restaurants
### Federal Hill, Key Highway, Locust Point

Southwest of the Inner Harbor, Federal Hill is a neighborhood where urban renewal has been a resounding success. Professional people live here in renovated brick-front row houses as not surprisingly, a number of bars and restaurants have emerged to cater to them (and others). Most places are found along Cross St. (where the Cross St. Market is located) or S. Charles St. The Key Highway follows the southern contour of the harbor and leads to an area called Locust Point (or to I-95 south if you miss a turn!). Just west of Ft. McHenry, Locust Point row houses still predominantly sport un-renovated formstone fronts, and the area retains a very neighborly feel.

#### Restaurants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>$$$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amicci's</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attman's Deli</td>
<td>*****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Della Notte</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germanos Trattoria</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Tavola</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mo's Crab and Pasta Factory</td>
<td>***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabatino's</td>
<td>****</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cafés**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>$$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccaro's</td>
<td>*****</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cafés

- **Café Manet**: *** $$$
- **Matsuri**: **** $$$
- **Nick's Inner Harbour Seafood Co.**: *** $$
- **Regi's**: $$$
- **Banjara**: ***** $$$
- **Blue Agave Restaurante and Tequileria**: **** $$
- **Corks**: **** $$$
- **Little Havana Restaurante y Cantina**: ***** $
- **Ryleigh's Brew Pub and Raw Bar**: **** $$=

### Fell's Point

This former sailors' haven is Baltimore's premier area for night life, but it can also be fun during the day. Filled with bars, restaurants, and dance clubs, Fell's Point abounds with food and beverage opportunities. We make no pretense of being comprehensive, but we have included as many establishments as possible.

#### Bars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>$$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>723</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Birds of a Feather    | ***** $$
| Duda's Tavern         | ***** $$$
| Mad River             | **** $$

**Cafés**

- **Hull Street Blues Café**: *** $$$
- **No Way Jose Café**: *** $$
- **Spoon's Coffeehouse and Roastery**: **** $
Max's on Broadway *** $$$
Wharf Rat’ **** $$$

Restaurants
Brick Oven Pizza **** $$
Carolina's Tex-Mex Restaurant **** $$
El Taquito Mexicano *** $$
Jimmy's Restaurant **** $$
La Guadalupana **** $
Obrycki's *** $$$$ 
Peter's Inn ***** $$$$$$
Pierpoint ***** $$$$$$
Bertha's **** $$$
Henninger's Tavern *** $$$$
John Steven Ltd. **** $$$
Latin Palace **** $$$

Cafés
Blue Moon Café and Dining House **** $$
Liquid Earth **** $$
Ze Mean Bean Café **** $$$

Canton
Recent efforts at revitalizing this formerly industrial area have made Canton (east and south of the Inner Harbor and Fells Point) one of Baltimore's up-and-coming neighborhoods. Note that we classify Greektown restaurants as being in Canton. We realize that that's not strictly true, but we figure for our purposes here, it is a useful way of grouping them.

Bars
Gin Mill *** $$$$ 
Good Love Bar *** $$$

Restaurants
Bo Brooks Crab House and Restaurant **** $$$
Captain James Landing *** $$$
Greektown’s Souvlaki **** $
Helen's Garden Café ***** $$$$ 
Ikaros ***** $$$$ 
Samos **** $$
Sip & Bite **** $ 
Zorba's *** $$$$ 
Austin Grill **** $$$
Bay Café **** $$
Gecko's **** $$$$ 

Elsewhere
This is our catchall category for restaurants located in other parts of the Baltimore metropolitan area. We include them because we like them and because graduate students often find themselves in their vicinity for one reason or another.

Arizona Tapas ***** $$$
Bertha's ***** $$$
Brick Oven Pizza ** $$
El Taquito Mexicano ***** $$
Henninger's Tavern ***** $$$
Bare Bones Restaurant and Brewpub *****$$$$ (Timonium)
DuClaw Brewery ***** $$$$ (Northeast Baltimore)
Ellicott Mills Brewing Company *** $$$(Ellicott City)
El Salto **** $$ (Parkville)
Los Amigos ***** $$ (Parkville)
Mr. Bill's Terrace Inn ***** $$$ (Essex)
Rams Head Tavern ***** $$ (Annapolis)
Red Brick Station/White Marsh Brewing Company **** $$$$(White Marsh)
Salsa Grill *** $$$(Woodlawn/Security Square)
Turf Inn ***** $$ (Timonium)

Restaurants by Cuisine Type

Afghani
Helmand ***** $$

American
Alonso's **** $$
Bay Café **** $$
Bel-Loc Diner ** $$
Bill Bateman's Bistro ** $$
Birds of a Feather ***** $$
Blimpie * $
Blue Moon Café and Dining House **** $$
Buddies Pub and Jazz Club * $$
Café Hon *** $$$
Capitol City Brewing Company ** $$$
Champion Billiards Café * $$
Charles Village Pub *** $$
Cheesecake Factory **** $$
Club Charles **** $$
Cluck-U Chicken *** $
Dizzie Issie’s *** $$
ESPN Zone ** $$
Evergreen Cafe ** $$
Frazier's on the Avenue ** $$
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry’s Impressions</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull Street Blues Café</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy’s Restaurant</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>$$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mamie’s Café</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Shirley’s</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Royal Tavern</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Vernon Stable</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>$$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Washington Tavern</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl Bar</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>$$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panera Bread</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Moon Diner</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pete’s Grille</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickles Pub</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PJ’s Pub</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Robin</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regi’s</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Run Tap and Grill</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Tuesday</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Tuesday’s</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryleigh’s Brew Pub and Raw Bar</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sip &amp; Bite</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGI Friday’s</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thirteenth Floor</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towson Diner</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharf Rat’</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's Industrial Exchange</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Images Cards and Café</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>$$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamber’s Nifty Fifties Diner</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duda’s Tavern</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four West</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Australian**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mad River</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobbers</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Bagels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Einstein Bagels</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg’s Bagels</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam’s Bagels</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Sky Bread Company</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Caribbean**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahama Breeze</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>$$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean Kitchen</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chinese**
Café Zen ** $$$$  
Chinatown Café *** $$$  
Chow Mein Charlie's ** $$  
Oriental Express ** $  
Paul Chen Hong Kong Restaurant ** $$  
Pei Wei Asian Diner ** $$  
Peking House ** $$  
Szechuan House **** $$  
The Golden Gate Noodle House *** $$  
Tony Cheng's Szechuan Restaurant ** $$$  
Yung's Carryout * $  

Continental  
Brass Elephant **** $$$$$$  
Café Manet *** $$$  

Cuban  
Babalu Grill *** $$$  
Little Havana Restaurante y Cantina ***** $$  

Ethiopian  
Ze Mean Bean Café **** $$$  
Five Seasons **** $$$  
Ghion Ethiopian International Café *** $$  

Fondue  
Melting Pot ** $$$$$$  

French  
Crêpe du Jour ***** $$$  
Jeannier's ** $$$$$$  
Martick's **** $$$$  
Petit Louis Bistro *** $$$$$$  

Greek  
C.C. Carryout ** $$  
Cobbers *** $$  
Greektown’s Souvlaki **** $$  
Ikaros ***** $$  
Samos **** $$  
Zorba's *** $$  

Indian  
Akbar Restaurant ** $$$  
Ambassador Dining Room/Banjara ** $$$$  
Banjara ***** $$$$$
Bombay Garden  ***  $$$
Kathmandu Kitchen  ****  $$$
Kumari  ****  $$$
Mughal Garden  ****  $$$
Pavan Foods  *  $
Tamber's Nifty Fifties Diner  **  $$$

Irish
Dougherty's Irish Pub  **  $$$
Mick O'Shea's Pub  ****  $$

Italian
Amicci's  ***  $$$$$$
Café Troia  **  $$$
Della Notte  ***  $$$$$$
Germanos Trattoria  *  $$$$$$
La Tavola  **  $$$$$$
Mo's Crab and Pasta Factory  ***  $$$
Paolo's  **  $$
Pasta Mista  ***  $$
Sabatino's  ****  $$$$$$
Sotto Sopra  **  $$$$$$
Strapazza  ***  $$$
Vaccaro's  *****  $

Japanese
Chiyo Sushi  ***  $$$
Kawasaki  ****  $$$$$$
Matsuri  ****  $$$
Minato  ***  $$$
Niwana  ***  $$$
San Sushi Too  **  $$$$$$
Sushi Hana  ****  $$$$$$
Kobe Teppan and Sushi  ****  $$$$$$

Korean
1.7th Generation  ***  $$
C.C. Carryout  **  $$
Nam Kang  ****  $$$$$$
New No Da Ji  ***  $$$
Niwana  ***  $$
U-Jung Kwan  ***  $$

Mexican/Spanish/Southwestern
Blue Agave Restaurante and Tequileria  ****  $$$
Carolina's Tex-Mex Restaurant  ****  $$
Chipotle ** $  
El Taquito Mexicano *** $$  
Frisco Burritos *** $$  
Gecko's **** $$$  
Holy Frijoles **** $$$  
La Guadalupana **** $  
Latin Palace **** $$  
McCafferty's **** $$$$$  
No Way Jose Café *** $$$  
Sierra Grill *** $$$  
Tapas Teatro ** $$$  
Tio Pepe *** $$$$$$  

Middle Eastern  
Desert Café ***** $  
Kabob Hut *** $  
Café Isis (Al Pacino Café) ** $  
Egyptian Pizza *** $$$$  
Orchard Market Café *** $$$$  

New American  
Corks **** $$$$  
Donna's Coffee Bar **** $$  
Ethel and Ramone's **** $$$$  
Golden West Café ***** $  
Helen's Garden Café ***** $$  
Henninger's Tavern *** $$$$  
IXIA * $$$$$  
John Steven Ltd. **** $$  
Max's on Broadway *** $$  
One World Café *** $  
Peter's Inn ***** $$$$$$  
Rainforest Café ** $$  
Red Maple ** $$  
Ruby Lounge *** $$$$  
Spike and Charlie's *** $$$$  
XS ***** $$  
Zodiac *** $$  
Gertrude's at the BMA **** $$$$$  
Pierpoint ***** $$$$  

Peruvian  
Salsa Grill ** $$/$$  

Pizza  
Angelo's **** $
Brick Oven Pizza **** $$
Casa Mia's **** $
Pizzeria Uno ** $$
Café Isis (Al Pacino Café) ** $$
Egyptian Pizza *** $$$

Seafood
Bertha's **** $$$
Bo Brooks Crab House and Restaurant **** $$
Captain James Landing *** $$
City Lights Seafood * $$$$$
Duda's Tavern ***** $$
Faidley’s Seafood ***** $$
Fresh Fresh Seafood *** $$
Four West *** $$$$$
Gertrude's at the BMA **** $$$$$
Legal Sea Foods *** $$$$$
Lexington Market **** $
McCormick and Schmick's ***** $$$$$
Mo's Crab and Pasta Factory *** $$
Nick's Inner Harbour Seafood Co. *** $$
Obrycki's *** $$
Phillips Harborplace * $$$$$
Pierpoint ***** $$$$$
Rusty Scupper *** $$$$$$
John Steven Ltd. **** $$

Thai
Bangkok Place ** $$
Thai Landing **** $$
Thai Restaurant ***** $$
Thairish **** $$

Vegetarian
Liquid Earth **** $$
Yabba Pot ***** $$

Vietnamese
Saigon Remembered ** $$$

Baltimore: The City That Brews
Beer has historically played an important role in the life of Baltimore. And although Baltimore is no longer home to National Bohemian (Natty Boh) beer, and the downtown streets no longer smell like beer (as they did during Prohibition), a number of microbreweries and brewpubs have emerged to continue the tradition. Check out www.mdbeer.com for the Brewers Association of Maryland website.
For your imbibing pleasure, we have provided you with a list of local brewpubs. We suggest you visit them all during your time in Baltimore. All of them run quite good happy hour specials featuring their own brews. Most of them have beer samplers you can order which include 5 or 6-ounce samples of all or most of their beers. Those that don't will generally let you taste a beer or two before ordering. And if you can't get enough while you're there, most of these brewpubs offer inexpensive growlers (jugs) of their brews for you to take home. And as always, please be sure to find a designated driver!

In addition to beers brewed by brewpubs in Baltimore, there are several other locally produced beers worth sampling. Look for them at bars or at liquor stores such as Wells and The Wine Source.

**Blue Ridge**, the line of beers from Frederick Brewing Company, is one of our favorite regional brands. The brewery offers tours, too.

**Brimstone Brewery**, located in Canton, was founded by some Loyola students who started homebrewing in college. Their beer is quite good, but we don't see it around as much as some of the other local beers. They do, however, brew the house beer for Obrycki's Crab House.

**Clipper City Beer** is owned by Hugh Sisson, of brewpub renown. There are several varieties available on tap or in bottles around town, including some brews by Hopkins Cancer Researchers! McHenry's is the most popular (and one of the best).

**Old Dominion**, a brewery located in Virginia, has been infiltrating the Baltimore market lately. They brew the house beer for the Owl Bar in the Belvedere.

**The Raven** is a tasty beer that stands alone, probably because its makers don't have their own facilities, so they contract the brewing and bottling out. Recognize it by the portrait of Poe on the bottle caps.

**Wild Goose**, from the Eastern Shore, produces a range of good beers, including an excellent India Pale Ale, a porter, and a winter ale aptly called "Snow Goose." Wild Goose is now owned by the Frederick Brewing Company, makers of Blue Ridge beers. They have kept the Wild Goose line separate, though, and we're glad.

**Yuengling**, from America's oldest brewery, has recently acquired considerable market share in Baltimore. This Pennsylvania brand has a pretty good lager and a pre-mixed black-and-tan. Best of all, it's really cheap!

**Brewpubs**

**Baltimore Brewing Company ******
German-style beer in a spacious setting. Get a growler to go or a mini-keg for a party.

**The Brewer's Art *******
Belgian-style beers with fine dining upstairs and a grotto bar downstairs.

**DuClaw Brewery *****
Good ales in a strip mall in northeast Baltimore.
Capitol City Brewing Company **
Ales brewed right there in the Inner Harbor. Have a drink and watch the tourists go by.

Ellicott Mills Brewing Company ***
German- and Australian-style lagers in historic Ellicott City.

Red Brick Station/White Marsh Brewing Company ****
The British-style ales make a trip to White Marsh worthwhile.

Rocky Run Tap and Grill ***=
They're not our favorite beers, but get a sampler and judge for yourself.

Ryleigh's Restaurant and Brewpub ****
Maryland's oldest brewpub, recently renovated. We miss the old menu though.

The Wharf Rat ****
Outstanding Oliver's Ales, with locations in both Fell's Point and the Inner Harbor. Try the traditional cask-conditioned brews!

Wine in and Around Baltimore
For all you grape lovers, Washington D.C. has many possibilities for wine tasting. However, if you'd like to stay in Baltimore, Ryleigh's Restaurant and Brewery (32-36 East Cross Street, 410-539-2093) occasionally hosts such events, as do Spike and Charlie's (1225 Cathedral St, 410-752-8144). A great option in our immediate neighborhood is the Wine Source (3601 Elm Ave., 410-467-7777) in Hampden which also occasionally hosts wine-tasting events. Corks (1026 S Charles St, 410-752-3810) has the biggest wine list, but it's quite expensive by a grad student’s budget. Helen's Garden Café (2908 O'Donnell Street, 410-276-2233) has selections aptly suited to a grad student budget. Maryland is not known for its wines, and there are indeed some bad ones, but a few are decent, and visiting the wineries is a fun thing to do. The industry however, is growing with 22 wineries currently producing more than 180 different wines with sales of $8.1 million last year. Maryland also has its own Wine Festival held annually by Caroll County tourism (http://www.carrollcountyfarmmuseum.org/).

Maryland Wineries
For more information visit www.marylandwine.com.
Basignani, 15722 Falls Rd., Sparks, MD, 410-472-0703; One of the most famous of MD wineries; Most popular wines are Riesling and Chardonnay
Boordy, 12820 Long Green Pike, Hydes, MD, 410-592-5015
Catoctin, 805 Greenbridge Rd., Brookeville, MD, 301-774-2310
Cygnus, 3130 Long Lane, Manchester, MD, 410-374-6395
Deep Creek Cellars, 177 Frazee Ridge Road, Friendsville, MD, 301-746-4349; Located in beautiful MD countryside with amazing views
Elk Run, 14113 Liberty Rd., Mount Airy, MD, 410-875-2009
Fiore, 3026 Whiteford Rd., Pylesville, MD, 410-879-4007
Linganore, 13601 Glissans Mill Rd., Mount Airy, MD, 410-795-6432
Loew, 14001 Liberty Rd., Mount Airy, MD, 410-831-5464
Happy Hour
So you’re on the graduate student stipend and want to save some money as well as beat the rush hour dinner traffic. If time and grease doesn’t matter to your stomach or if you just want a quick break, go to happy hour! Almost every bar has a happy hour of some sort, which can make it difficult to decide where to go. So here is our top-ten list of Baltimore happy hours—we give them all five stars. Because we all live on grad student budgets, good deals on food and drink were important factors in making it on our list—happy hour specials can make some places affordable that would otherwise be prohibitively expensive. But we also considered setting and the desire for variety. Visit [http://www.mdparty.com/venues/happyhour.asp](http://www.mdparty.com/venues/happyhour.asp) for an exhaustive happy hour list. Also don’t forget about the GRO happy hour. On Thursdays at PJs at 6:00pm. Free buffet!

Every day happy hours
Bay Café Beach-like setting; two-for-one drinks; copious free buffet on Fridays.
Boomerang Pub Aussie decor; $2.50 imports, plus Kangaroo bites to munch on!
Brewer's Art Half price Resurrections (and other house beers) can't be beat! Get some fries, too.
Charles Village Pub Two-for-one rail drinks; half-price munchies 4:00-6:30pm
Gin Mill Get trendy in Canton with $1.25 microbrew pints (beer, not gin). What a deal!
Little Havana Restaurante y Cantina Half-price drinks, $1 drafts in Cuban-themed decor.
McCormick and Schmick's Sit outside, have a drink, and watch the tourists and boats go by.
Nick's Inner Harbour Seafood Company Big beers and little sea creatures at Cross St. Market.
PJ's Pub Reduced prices on pitchers and appetizers; daily food specials too. GRO happy hour is also hosted there every Thursdays!
Thirteenth Floor at the Belvedere Enjoy the fabulous view and two-for-one rail drinks.
Tusk Lounge at the Brass Elephant Half-price drinks in an ultra-swanky setting; get a martini and act suave!

½ price burger nights:
Golden West (Monday), Coopers (Tuesday), PJ (Wednesday) Shuckers (Thursday)

Brunch
Not quite breakfast, not quite lunch, brunch has got to be one of the greatest inventions ever, and there's no shortage of good ones here in Baltimore. Here are our top ten picks; try them all before you leave! Brunch is Sunday only unless otherwise noted.

Blue Moon Café and Dining House
If brunch is so good, why not serve it every day? They do here, and we like it.

Charles Village Pub
Nearby (Homewood campus) and cheap.

Gecko's
All-you-can-eat traditional and exotic dishes, with drinks included.
Gertrude's at the B.M.A.
Elegant and delicious Chesapeake cuisine with outdoor seating.

Hull Street Blues Café
Great spread of homemade dishes at this all-you-can-eat place. Try a Bloody Mary in a glass rimmed with Old Bay!

Little Havana Restaurante y Cantina
Interesting food, champagne, and Bloody Marys make for a good time.

Mt. Washington Tavern
Good food in a nice area.

Owl Bar at the Belvedere
Eat with the owls in an old speakeasy where Zelda Fitzgerald used to dance on the bar.

Take Out and Delivery
If you don't want to leave your apartment or can't leave your department, call these numbers for help.

Chinese
Chung King (Hampden)
410-366-6627

Paul Chen Hong Kong Restaurant
410-235-8744 or 410-235-8745

Peking House
410-539-8183 or 410-539-8284

Orient Express
410-889-0003

Yung's Carryout
410-539-8200 or 410-539-8201

Pizza, Etc.
Angelo's
410-235-2595

Casa Mia's
410-467-0596

Crazy Mario's
410-366-1111
Domino's  
410-338-2500

Fall's Road Carry-Out and Delivery  
410-243-5939

Mt. Washington Pizza and Subs  
410-664-1111

Papa John's  
410-243-PAPA

Pizza Boli's  
410-235-1000

**Indian**  
Banjara  
410-235-8190

Tamber's Nifty Fifties Diner  
410-243-0383

**A-Z Guide to Baltimore Restaurants**

723, **, 723 S. Broadway 410-327-8800, Fell's Point  
$$
Half dance club, half bar/pool hall, 723 is about as original as its name. It's not a bad place, though, and it is one of Baltimore's largest dance clubs. It can get crowded on weekends.

1.7th Generation, ***, 123129 W. 27th St., 410-467-1717, Charles Village  
Korean, $$
You might have wondered what this establishment on the corner of 27th and Howard St. is—it took us a few years in Baltimore to discover that it was a bar. The bar is frequented almost exclusively by people of Korean descent. The name refers to young people who are first and second generation Korean immigrants. Drinks are expensive, but it's a nice change of pace. They also have karaoke with Korean subtitles.

Akbar Restaurant, **, 823 N. Charles St., 410-539-0944, Mount Vernon  
Indian, $$$, www.akbar-restaurant.com  
One of several Indian restaurants in Mt. Vernon, Akbar has good food and a reasonably priced lunch buffet. We tend to prefer Bombay Grill, but tastes vary, so give Akbar a try.

Alonso's, ****, 413-415 W. Cold Spring Ln., 410-235-3433, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
American, $$, www.alonso.com
Alonso's serves both as the entrance to Loco Hombre and also as a bar and restaurant in its own right. They are known for their huge burgers, which are pretty good; the rest of the menu is mediocre. However, the staff is always friendly, and it's a good place to wait for your table at the newly renovated Loco Hombre. While sitting at the bar, you can even get chips and salsa from next door.

Ambassador Dining Room/Banjara, **, 3811 Canterbury Rd., 410-366-1484, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Indian, $$$$$, www.ambassadordiningroom.com
Located on the ground floor of the Ambassador apartment building, this Indian restaurant has a lunch buffet for $11.95 that's worthwhile if you're hungry for something more than your usual sandwich. It includes papadums, chutneys, and salad, as well as several meat, fish, and vegetable main dishes, plus kheer (rice pudding) for dessert. The dinner menu is more expensive but the food is better. If the weather is nice, sit in the courtyard. The food is average as per the standards of Indian cuisine in Baltimore (much better options are found amongst the Indian restaurants in Mt Vernon). (Second location in Federal Hill: 1017 S. Charles St., 410-962-1554)

Amicci's, ***, 231 S. High St. 410-528-1096, Little Italy
Italian, $$$$$, www.amiccis.com
More affordable than many other places in Little Italy, try the garlicky "pane rotondo" as an appetizer. The gnocchi is also excellent, and the house Chianti is not bad.

Angelo's, ****, 3600 Keswick Rd., 410-235-2595, Hampden
Pizza, $
Big, cheap pizzas you can eat at an outside table or have delivered. A refreshing change from those pizza chains we're all sick of. Boasts the world's largest slice of pizza! It's huuuge!

Attman’s Deli, *****, 1019 E. Lombard Street 410-563-2666, Little Italy
Deli, $
Attman's is a Baltimore institution that has been around for decades and has the city’s best sandwiches, bar none. A Jewish-style delicatessen, serving plenty of corned beef, chopped liver, and pastrami on rye bread on "Corned Beef Row," just north of Little Italy. The place is always packed, especially around lunchtime, but the food is so good it’s worth the wait. Tons of specialty combination sandwiches, so grab a menu on your way in, or just go with simple elegance: corned beef on rye. Every sandwich is custom-made, don't be afraid to shout your order! Eat in or carry-out.

Austin Grill, ****, 2400 Boston St. 410-534-0606, Canton
$$$, www.austingrill.com
Located in the old Canton Can Company building, this restaurant features traditional southwestern dishes and some of their own creations. The outdoor seating is a plus in nice weather. If the margaritas are a little on the weak side, they're well-mixed, and they go well with the complimentary chips and fresh salsa.

Babalu Grill, ***, 32 Market Place, 410-234-9898, Inner Harbor
Cuban, $$$
This new venue serving Cuban food is a welcome addition to Baltimore's dining possibilities—too bad it's in the obnoxious "Power Plant Live" area! Still, the rum-marinated ahi tuna appetizer on sugar-cane skewers is delicious; the meat (for example the shredded "Ropa Vieja") is tender and flavorful; and the coconut crème broule is out of this world. Sadly, the "mojitos" have hardly any crushed fresh mint in them and are therefore very disappointing. Try a "Cuban Breeze" instead: sort of like a margarita, but with rum. One student writes, "Great atmosphere and music, ridiculously fast service, delicious food. Mmmm...mango salsa."

Bahama Breeze, ***, 100 E. Joppa Road, 410-821-7090, Towson
Caribbean, $$$$; www.bahamabreeze.com
Located on the top of Towson mall's parking lot. Interesting tropical-inspired interiors, cute bathrooms and decent service. Excellent selection of juice based drinks. Try the cinnamon mashed sweet potatoes, West Island patties and sugarcane juice.

Bangkok Place, **, 5230 York Rd., 410-433-0040, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Thai, $$$
This Thai restaurant has a larger dining room than Thai Restaurant on Greenmount. The food is good, particularly the daily special curries.

Banjara, *****, 1017 S. Charles Street 410-962-1554, Federal Hill
Indian, $$$$
Banjara serves delectable Indian food ranging from curry to crab soup to lamb and yogurt. Best of all, if you live in the area, they deliver.

Bay Café, ****, 2809 Boston St. 410-522-3377, Canton
American, $$, www.baycafébaltimore.com
If you're stuck in Baltimore when you'd rather be at the beach, a Friday afternoon happy hour at the Bay Café can really lift your spirits. Located on the waterfront in Canton, the Bay Café features a sandy area of outside seating, as well as an outdoor bar and stage. Although two-for-one drinks are an everyday happy hour occurrence (4-8 p.m.), there is a hearty free buffet (starting around 5:30 p.m.) and live music on Fridays. Indoors seating and an unremarkable regular menu are also available, but sitting outside by the bay is what really makes the trip worthwhile. Be sure to come early: it's crowded by 5 p.m.

Bel-Loc Diner, **, 1700 Joppa Rd., 410-668-2525, Towson
American, $$
This diner is a Towson tradition. Open 24 hours, the Bel-Loc Diner serves breakfast all day as well as dinner fare such as burgers and sandwiches. The place is often crowded on weekends, but we've never had to wait for a table.

Bertha's, ****, 734 S. Broadway 410-327-5795, Fell's Point
Seafood, $$$
Take the bumper stickers' advice: Eat Bertha's Mussels. They're quite good. Nautical decor fills the ceiling and walls at this narrow corner bar and restaurant. There's often live music in the bar, and ales don't get any better than Bertha's Best Bitter.

Big Sky Bread Company, ***, 509 West Cold Spring Lane, 410-662-6070, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity Bakery, $
They are best known for fresh baked bread. Their sandwiches taste fresh and they allow patrons to choose from the selection of freshly baked bread.

Nothing too original here, but many flavors of wings (our favorite is Garlic), big (10 oz.!) juicy burgers with a nice array of toppings, and a decadent "Cookie Monster" dessert. The Fried Ice Cream is disappointing, and on weekends this place fills up with Towson University students. Other than that, its a pretty agreeable experience. We were happy to hear of a new location in the Power Plant Live building (26 Market Pl.) at the Inner Harbor.

Birds of a Feather, *****, 1712 Aliceanna St. 410-675-8466, Fell's Point American, $$
Scotch is the drink here: this place has over one hundred single malt scotches. Not to mention detailed maps of Scotland tucked away under the bar, in case you're wondering exactly where your favorite Scotch is made. The food is typical bar food—come for drinks before or after dinner.

Blimpie, *, 3003 N. Charles St., 410-662-8200, Charles Village American, $
Chain sub shop in Charles Village. It's worse than the normal one here. Stale bread. www.blimpie.com

Blue Agave Restaurante and Tequileria, ****, 1032 Light Street 410-576-3938, Federal Hill Mexican, $$$, www.blueagaverestaurant.com
Tequila samplers! Party in a glass—over a hundred varieties! For food, try the plantain crusted sea bass with mango habañero relish and "arroz con leche" for dessert.

Blue Moon Café and Dining House, ****, 1621 Aliceanna St. 410-522-3940, Fell's Point American, $
Come for breakfast, lunch, or just coffee. Breakfast food is available all day, so try a fluffy biscuit or a huge cinnamon bun.

Bo Brooks Crab House and Restaurant, ****, 2701 Boston St. 410-558-0202, Canton Seafood, $$$$ www.bobrooks.com
In case you're new to the area, here's the deal: a crabb house is a place where they cover your table with a paper tablecloth, then dump piles of crabs on it for you to pick and eat. This is sometimes preceded by cream-of-crab soup (which is much better than "Maryland crab soup"), and almost invariably accompanied by several pitchers of beer. It's fun, and this is a prime waterfront location.
Bombay Garden, ***, 5511 York Rd., 410-323-8440, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Indian, $$$
Indian restaurant with probably the best authentic North Indian food in Baltimore. Location is not the best one, ambience is average. Service is usually good and their lunch buffet is only $6.95. Their "Mango Lassi" is arguably the best in Baltimore. They also deliver in the Homewood campus vicinity. Perfect for the poor grad student craving for great Indian food.

Brass Elephant, ****, 924 N. Charles St., 410-547-8485, Mount Vernon
Continental, $$$$$$, www.brasselephant.com
Once considered one of the pricier restaurants in Baltimore, the success of last year's month-long price rollback in conjunction with their twentieth anniversary must have inspired the management to adjust their business model a bit. Though by no means a low-cost experience, all dinner entrées are under $20 these days. There is also a new menu for the more casual Tusk Lounge, which is located upstairs and features live jazz on Thursdays and Fridays (9 p.m.-midnight).

Brewer's Art, ***** , 1106 N. Charles St., 410-547-6925, Mount Vernon
New American, $$, www.belgianbeer.com
The upstairs restaurant is lovely, with a selection of dishes providing something for everyone. Only complaint: on occasion, the service is too slow. The downstairs grotto-style bar is fun for people watching, and despite the trendy young crowds, the bartenders are friendly; efficient service without any cooler-than-thou attitude. The Belgian-style house beers (we recommend Resurrection Ale) go extremely well with an order of Baltimore's best french fries. You really must try these fries: they're flavored with garlic and rosemary, and served with linen napkins, even if that's all you order. The Alewife platter is also a nice accompaniment to your libations. A great place to go for Happy Hour, too.

Brick Oven Pizza, ****, 800 S. Broadway 410-563-1600, Fell's Point
Pizza, $$
Choose from more than fifty toppings to create your own pizza or go with one of several house styles you'd probably never dream up on your own. The pizzas are cooked the old-fashioned way—in a wood-burning stove—and it shows.

Buddies Pub and Jazz Club, *, 313 N. Charles St. 410-332-4200, Mount Vernon
American, $$
The biggest draw to Buddies is that it features live jazz Thursday through Saturday. This also turns out to be its most annoying feature, too, because the music is often extraordinarily, even painfully loud. It's not a place to go for conversation.

C.C. Carryout, **, 3121 St. Paul St. 410-235-4429, Charles Village
Korean/Greek, $$
Short-order fare at a fair price. The staff is always friendly. Try one of their cheap, filling breakfasts.

Café Hon, *** , 1002 W. 36th St. 410-243-1230, Hampden
American, $$$
On the Avenue, Café Hon is a Hampden institution. They serve up "homestyle" entrees as well as sandwiches and burgers. The wait staff is usually friendly and the '50's retro décor provides a nice look to the place. They have a new bar next door, called the Hon Bar.

Café Isis (Al Pacino Café), **, 900 Cathedral St. 410-962-8859, Mount Vernon Pizza/Middle Eastern, $$, www.caféisis.com
This Mt. Vernon location of the Al Pacino Café features gourmet pizza with an array of unusual toppings, as well as tasty Middle Eastern appetizers. See also Al Pacino Café and Egyptian Pizza.

Café Manet, ***, 1020 S. Charles St. 410-837-7006, Federal Hill Continental, $$$
Continental fare in a cozy atmosphere. There's a less-than-subtle French theme here: Manet lithographs cover one wall, shelves of French wines line another. The large front window provides a good place to people watch.

Café Troia, **, 28 W. Allegheny Ave., 410-337-0133, Towson Italian, $$$
Moderately priced regional Italian food in the heart of Towson, with live music.

Café Zen has some of the best Chinese food we've had in Baltimore. They feature tasty dumplings with and without meat. Entrees are also good and reasonably priced. The dishes with wilted spinach are especially tasty.

The original Capitol City is, as you might expect, located in Washington, D.C. But make no mistake the one in Baltimore is a fully functional brewery, making beer right at the south end of the Light Street Pavilion in the Inner Harbor. The outdoor seating provides a great place to sit and watch the tourists. The food is not particularly impressive, but the hot, soft pretzels complement the beer quite well.

Captain James Landing, ***, 2127 Boston St. 410-327-8600, Canton Seafood, $$$
It's a restaurant housed in a building shaped like a big boat. And it's open twenty-four hours, making it ideal for a post-bar snack.

Caribbean Kitchen, ****, 353 N. Calvert St. 410-837-2274, Inner Harbor Caribbean, $
Caribbean fare such as spicy curried goat and jerk chicken with sides of plantain. Big portions and small prices!

Carolina's Tex-Mex Restaurant, ****, 505 S. Broadway 410-276-0711, Fell's Point Tex-Mex, $$
The food here ranges from Mexican to Cuban to ??, and it's very fine. It's run by the same man who runs a cheaper version of the same restaurant a couple blocks north that is so authentic they call the burritos "burros" and your waitress might or might not speak English.

Casa Mia's, ****, 711 West 40th St. 410-467-0596, Hampden
Pizza, $
Cheap pizza with toppings such as spinach and artichokes so you can feel healthy. Convenient if you don't want to go to Giant on an empty stomach and even more convenient if you take advantage of delivery. They stop delivering relatively early though—usually around 9 p.m.

Champion Billiards Café, *, 1969 E Joppa Road, 410-665-7500, Towson
American, $$
They have nice pool tables and they used to make decent beer on-site. They still call themselves a brewpub, but don't be fooled by the sign. On the other hand, the bar food is tasty and affordable, especially if you take advantage of their happy hour and weeknight food specials. You can also play air hockey.

Charles Village Pub, ***, 3107 St. Paul St. 410-243-1611, Charles Village
American, $$
Good hamburgers actually cooked to your specifications—we like them rare and with grilled onions. We also like the clam strips and chili in a bread bowl. Their Sunday brunch is one of the best (and most convenient) values around. Happy hour's 2-for-1 rail drinks and half-price munchies are a good deal, but beware of "bar time" which may cause said happy hour to end prematurely and without warning. Beware, it can be extra smokey.

Cheesecake Factory, ****, 201 E. Pratt St. 410-234-3990, Inner Harbor
American, $$$, www.cheesecakefactory.com
This is still the only place for which it's worth specifically making the trek to the Inner Harbor. Typical American chain restaurant atmosphere (i.e., nil), but excellent food. Two good appetizers to try are the Thai Lettuce Wraps and the Sweet Corn Tamales. Our favorite main course is the sesame-crusted salmon, but there is a huge selection of other dishes, too. The portions are enormous, so take home a doggy-bag, leaving room for dessert. We've never had a bad flavor of cheesecake, but in our opinion the coffee-heath bar wins hands down. A word of warning: they don't take reservations, so on weekends the wait is several hours, and even the bar is too crowded to make for a pleasant aperitif/waiting-for-your-table spot. Nice view of the harbor if you can swing an outdoor table.

Chinatown Cafe, ***, 323 Park Avenue 410-727-5599, Mount Vernon
Chinese, $$$
Chinatown Cafe is one of two authentic Chinese restaurants in Baltimore (the other one is Szechwan house in Towson, which we like better). The dim sum is good, but you don’t get the authentic experience of the dim sum cars being pushed around. Instead you order off a list which isn't as fun but the food was good. I heard the dishes were even better. Service was really slow though.
Chipotle, **, 6314 York Road, 410-377-7728, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Mexican, $, www.chipotle.com
New location of the mexican fast food chain. Extremely busy on weekend nights. Decent food with large portions, extremely fast service.

Chiyo Sushi, ***, 1619 Sulgrave Ave., 410-466-1000, Mt. Washington
Japanese, $$$
A restaurant with offerings typical to other Japanese restaurants albeit with exceptional service. The food is average, the restaurant is small (reservations recommended). Don't miss the calamari salad.

Chow Mein Charlie's, **, 508 West Cold Spring Lane, 410-889-8886, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Chinese, $$
Chinese addition to the Coldspring Ln dining scene. Popular for its steamed dumplings, average otherwise.

City Café, **, 1001 Cathedral St. 410-539-4252, Mount Vernon
New American, $$$
Slick modern look in a sunny space with appetizing fare, not limited to coffee and dessert. The waffles with fruit make a perfect weekend breakfast. Back dining room has pricey dinners.

City Lights Seafood, *, 301 Light St. 410-244-8811, Inner Harbor
Seafood, $$$$$, www.citylightsseafood.com
We see no good reason to go to this Light St. Pavilion tourist trap.

Club Charles, ****, 1724 N. Charles St. 410-727-8815, Mount Vernon
American, $$
Across from the Charles Theater, this is a favorite hangout for humanities students. It has a great jukebox, if you can stand the heavy fog of smoke that envelops the place.

Cluck-U Chicken, ***, 8 W Pennsylvania Ave, 410-494-1731, Towson
American, $, www.cluckutowson.com/
A bit shady location, good wings, reasonable prices and "deadly" spicy sauce. A must-try Towson experience. Beware of the "spicy" sauce and enjoy the wings. Don't forget to check out their spice scale from mild to global thermo-nuclear. Editor tip (based on personal experience): Never go above Nuclear else keep maalox and "heartburn" medicine ready.

Cobbers, ***, 1218-1220 N. Charles St. 410-727-0713, Mount Vernon
Australian/Greek, $$$, www.cobberspub.com
This aussie inspired place serves standard brew-pub food with a Mediterranean flare. What’s that? Australia isn’t in the Mediterranean? Don’t tell the owners.

Combalou, ****, 818 N. Calvert St. 410-528-1117, Mount Vernon
New American, $$
The highlight of this new Mt. Vernon café and cheese shop is cheese: smelly French cheeses, intriguing Italian cheeses (try the somewhat sweet "Ubriaco Di Amarone" made from sheep's milk), Dutch rarities like Goat Gouda, or handcrafted American and Canadian cheeses. Unfortunately you'll have to go down the street for a bottle of wine to go with that cheese, then pay a $3 "corkage" fee to use their wineglasses. Still, they have deliciously fresh sandwiches and salads, good pâté, nice pastries, all served in aunky but clean updated-cave-painting-style décor. Plus you can buy delicacies to take home: aforementioned cheeses, olives, labneh (thick, creamy, yummy yogurt), membrillo (quince paste), loukoumi, pasta, sauces, and more. Dinner is served on Friday and Saturday.

Corks, ****, 1026 S. Charles St. 410-752-3810, Federal Hill
New American, $$ $$ $$, www.corksrestaurant.com
You guessed it—it's a wine place! The selection is eclectic and is complemented nicely by the New American cuisine. The chef, Jerry Pellegrino, can be heard on Radio Kitchen, a WYPR weekly. So it's not a surprise that the food can get pricey.

Crêpe du Jour, ***** 1609 Sulgrave Ave. 410-542-9000, Mt. Washington
French, $$$, www.crepedujour.com
The savory crêpes aren't made with the traditional heavier flour, but they're still very good. They also serve "croque-monsieurs" (grilled cheese and ham sandwiches) and entrée specials like seafood over pasta. Dessert crêpes are just plain yummy. Definitely get the French-style lemonade citron press: fresh squeezed lemon-juice to which you add your own water and sugar.

Della Notte, ***, 801 Eastern Ave. 410-837-5500, Little Italy
Italian, $$$$$, www.dellanotte.com
It's got faux Roman columns outside and huge fake tree in the dining room, but the food is authentic and tasty.

Desert Café, ****, 1605-1607 Sulgrave Ave. 410-367-5808, Mt. Washington
Middle Eastern, $  
Terrific little place for Middle Eastern specialties served with a smile on the lopsided front porch—hummus, tabouli, baba ganoush, as well as rich and tasty desserts.

Dizzie Issie's, ***, 300 W. 30th St. 410-235-0171, Charles Village
American, $$  
This is the ideal cozy, corner bar for Hopkins students. Drinks are cheap (and huge) the food is well-executed American, the atmosphere is Cheers-esque, there are good bartenders and a great jukebox. And, it's within walking distance from campus. Mellow than CVP, with a nice local crowd that ranges anywhere from Hampden yuppies, to hipsters, to original working class folks.

Donna's Coffee Bar, ****, 3101 St. Paul St. 410-889-3410, Charles Village
New American, $$$.  
The sandwiches and salads here are good, although the service is variable. A decent selection of good quality espresso drinks. Two positive aspects: outside tables and convenient location. Has an Italian cafe ambiance. Great close to campus date place. (Other locations: 800 N. Charles St., 410-539-8051; 5100 Fall's Road, Mt. Washington, 410-532-7611; 2 East Madison, Mt. Vernon)
Dougherty's Irish Pub, **, 223 W. Chase St. 410-752-4059, Mount Vernon
Irish, $$$
Good beer, reasonable prices, and a large, airy room makes Dougherty's a nice relaxing place to get a drink. There are also a couple of pool tables in the back.

Duda's Tavern, *****, 1600 Thames St. 410-276-9719, Fell's Point
American/Seafood, $$$
A friendly bar with fresh, well-prepared seafood and a good selection of beers, including a $2 daily microbrew special. We like it a lot.

Egyptian Pizza, ***, 542 E. Belvedere Ave., 410-323-7060, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Pizza/Middle Eastern, $$$$$, www.egyptianpizza.com
This is our favorite place to go for unusual pizza. The "Sharm el-Sheq," for example, is topped with salmon and caviar and served with mango chutney on the side. The Middle Eastern appetizers are also tasty. They don't have a liquor license, but you can bring your own wine or beer and Well's is just up the road. It's still our favorite place to go before or after a movie at the Senator (Dont forget to pick up their flyer from Senator. It has a discount coupon). Try the Hibiscus drink.

Einstein Bagels, **, 901 Goucher Blvd, 410-825-0420, Towson
Bagels, $, www.einsteinbros.com/
Moderately priced, good-tasting bagels and sandwiches. Try their egg bagel sandwich.

El Taquito Mexicano, ***, 1744 Eastern Ave. 410-563-7840, Fell's Point
Mexican, $
This is authentic Mexican food; they even serve an unexciting but very typical "Sopa de fideos" (noodle soup). Friendly service and good food. The "Conejo Adobado" (rabbit in a smoky chile sauce) is scrumptious. They also have filling soups like "Pozole de pollo," and slow-cooked lamb tacos ("Tacos de Barbacoa"). No liquor available (BYOB) but try a refreshing "Sidral" (apple soda) or "Jarrito" (many different fruit flavors). Warning: Cash Only, no Credit Cards.

ESPN Zone, **, 601 East Pratt St. 410-685-3776, Fax: 410-244-8222, Inner Harbor
American, $$, espnzone.com/baltimore/
Taking Americans' love of sports to an extreme—you can even watch the game from your toilet seat so as not to miss a second of it. (This place was the winner, incidentally, of City Paper's "Best Public Restroom" one year.) You may have seen ads on TV with an old lady shooting hoops alongside a pro. We didn't see any of that when we went, but they do have decent food, desserts, and many games (video and other).

Ethel and Ramone's, ****, 1615 Sulgrave Avenue, 410-664-2971, Mt. Washington
New American, $$$$:
Chef-owner Edward Bloom provides excellent, friendly service, with really good and substantial food. Great soups and lunch menu. Dinner is good too, but a little pricey, with specials like "bronzed catfish creole-style" costing around $20. Limited but tasty dessert options. Brunch here is great. New Orleans-style French toast and strawberry pancake purses come highly recommended.
American, $$
Evergreen cafe has replaced the popular joint of 'The Daily Grind'. However, the new cafe fills in the void left by Daily Grind perfectly and remains as popular as ever. It is a pleasant place to get coffee and do some studying. Sandwiches and desserts provide something to munch on. The atmosphere in the Roland Park location is relaxed and there is local art on the walls. It makes a nice stop for an afternoon or late night caffeine fix.

Faidley’s Seafood, *****, 400 West Lexington Street 410-685-6169, Inner Harbor
Seafood, $$
Quality seafood—a 100 year tradition. Come to this Lexington Market establishment for fresh fish, oysters, or crab cakes. Wear comfortable shoes—Faidley's has stand-up dining only, around solid wooden tables.

Five Seasons, ****, 830 Guilford Ave. 410-625-9787 , Mount Vernon
Ethiopian, $$$
The dishes are tasty and the service is friendly, if unhurried. The upstairs has traditional cushion-style seating, but it's not always open.

Four West, ***, 4 W. University Pkwy., 410-235-8200, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
American/Seafood, $$$$$
Brighter lighting and a more open-air feel improve the atmosphere and space that held the former Polo Grill. Four West is also less expensive than its predecessor, although it's still no bargain. Service is great, even if you look like the broke young grad student that you are.

Frazier's on the Avenue, **, 919 W. 36th St. 410-662-4914, Hampden
American, $$
Cheap, decent food, a friendly wait-staff, a good selection of beer on tap, and a pool table. What more could you ask for? The sandwiches are tasty, and the dinner specials are truly a bargain: $5 for a large crab cake sandwich $6 lobsters and steaks. Note that side dishes are extra with the specials, and that the crab cake and lobster specials aren't always available. But the mashed potatoes are excellent. (Second location: 857 W. 33rd St., 410-889-1143)

Fresh Fresh Seafood, ***, 507 York Rd., 410-821-3474, Towson
Seafood, $$$
Saunter over to the counter to eye up the day's offerings and choose your fancy. Darlene will take good care of you here as you stuff yourself with reasonably priced seafood that comes with plenty of hot rolls.

Frisco Burritos, ***, 3 W. Chesapeake Ave., 410-296-4004, Towson
Mexican, $$
Small, friendly location close to Towson commons. Cheap and good food. Extremely popular with students. Perfect for cheap and good food before a movie at Towson Commons.
GaGa's Ice Cream, ***, 3120 St. Paul St. 410-243-0808, Charles Village
Ice Cream, $
Charles Village establishment with good ice cream you can eat outside or take with you. Also
features fruit shakes and soups—so it's not just a fair-weather business.

Gecko's, ****, 2318 Fleet St. 410-732-1961, Canton
Southwestern, $$$
This is a fun bar with good happy hour drink prices, helpful service, tasty coconut shrimp, and a
good vegetarian selection. The margaritas tend to be rather sweet, but there is an excellent selection
of tequilas that taste just fine without mixers. Pool tables are available in the basement. One caveat:
your legs don't fit under the bar, because it doesn't stick out far enough. This is really quite
annoying!

Germanos Trattoria, *, 248 Albemarle St. 410-685-1859, Little Italy
Italian, $$$$; www.la-tavola.com
Decent food, but nothing spectacular. It was fairly empty and dark. There were a lot of fruit flies
around.

Gertrude's at the BMA, ****, 10 Art Museum Dr. 410-889-3399, Charles Village
New American/Seafood, $$$$$
Chesapeake cuisine has gone upscale at Gertrude's, located in the Baltimore Museum of Art. We
like the sophisticated versions of traditional regional favorites. The seafood is excellent, as are the
non-seafood entrées and sandwiches. The sandwiches are reasonably priced.
www.johnshields.com/restaurant/rest/gertrudes.html

Ghion Ethiopian International Café, ***, 1100 Maryland Avenue 410-752-3865, Mount Vernon
Ethiopian, $$$
Rather longwinded name for a tiny joint that really doesn't look like much—it's more of a bar—but
the service is attentive and the injera (stretchy, crêpe-like bread you use with your fingers to scoop
up food) with stewed meats and veggies tastes just as good as it does in the more elaborate settings
of other Ethiopian restaurants.

Gin Mill, ***, 2300 Boston St. 410-327-6455, Canton
$$$$
This trendy saloon on Boston St. in Canton has two floors, with a bar on each floor and a pool table
upstairs. Ironically, their selection of gin is a bit lacking—we don't recommend ordering a martini--
but the microbrews make up for it. The food is not particularly exciting so we recommend you
begin an evening here and then move on to dinner in Fell's Point or Canton.

Golden West Café, *****, 1105 W. 36th St. 410-889-8891, Hampden
New American, $$
Chef/owner Thomas Rudis, a transplant from New Mexico, serves up great food at any time, but
his breakfasts are truly outstanding. The breakfast burrito, filled with potatoes, eggs, cheese, and a
sinus-clearing jalapeno sauce, is quite popular, but the banana pancakes with coconut sauce, Grand
Marnier-laced waffles, and everything-but-the-kitchen-sink huevos montulenos platter have fervent
adherents as well. They also have some unusual lunch items—one is served in a cut-open bag of Fritos. Service is average and be prepared to wait for your food. Very Baltimoresque environment.

Good Love Bar, ***, 2322 Boston St. 410-558-2347, Canton
$$$
This sign-less Canton bar with a dark, smoky atmosphere and crimson walls is a good place to have a few drinks. It's hip and low-key with three levels, a few booths on the first floor and some comfortable chairs on the second. The crowd is young.

Greektown’s Souvlaki, ****, 4706 Eastern Ave. 410-276-1156, Canton
Greek, $$
Along Eastern Avenue, in Baltimore's under-appreciated Greektown, is one very affordable alternative to the many other more expensive Greek restaurants in that area, right near Hopkins Bayview campus and Canton. It is a very cozy, hole-in-the-wall, low-priced take-out or sit-down restaurant where you can get all types of Greek specialties for not a lot of money. The whole place is entirely run by a very charming Greek gentleman who takes pride in his establishment and whose business is fed by regular customers. The most popular item is the Souvlaki special, which is well-spiced chicken or pork on a skewer that comes with toasted pita bread, a freshly chopped Greek salad, and a can of soda for $6.95.

Greg's Bagels, ***, 519 E. Belvedere Ave, 410-323-9463, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Bagels, $
Sun Columnist Michael Olesker said: "I never sit down to write [...] without first eating one of Greg's bagels. That gives me 32% more adjectives, 15% better similes, and 47% more powerful metaphors." So if you're stuck on your thesis, maybe you should try one! By far the best bagels in town, Greg's offers an amazing array of toppings. For an unusual taste, try a chocolate chunk bagel with pumpkin butter or pistachio spread, or a "European Special"—Belgian apple-pear spread under warm goat cheese. Anything on their lengthy list of fabulous smoked fish is also bound to please your palate, and the friendly owners will be happy to answer questions and recommend combinations. The "crunchy Danish onions" are great on top of smoked fish. Just one drawback—they don't take credit cards.

Harry’s Impressions, **, 2118 Maryland Avenue 410-727-0687, Mount Vernon
American, $$
A unique and necessary experience. Laid back, friendly, nifty place to drink, hang out and chat, play pool, and listen to some tunes. Thursday is open mic night.

Helen's Garden Café, ***** , 2908 O'Donnell St. 410-276-2233, Canton
New American, $$$, www.helensgarden.com
With the longest happy hour in Baltimore—half-price glasses of wine from 11-8 daily—Helen's Garden is the affordable way to sip wine in style. The extensive and eclectic menu is supplemented with a variety of specials each week and on Wednesday nights most entrees are half-price. The food is outstanding—grilled pork chops au poivre, a crab cake and steak combination, blackened beef salad over spinach with gorgonzola, to name a few favorites. It is the atmosphere, though, that sets Helen's Garden apart from other sophisticated city restaurants. Conscious of its location in the
gentrifying but still very much East “Balmer” district of Canton, the restaurant's management invites casual dress, friendly unhurried sociability and a genuine and unpretentious appreciation of good food and wine. Sit at the bar for an hour and you will make new and interesting friends over the best food you've tasted in a while.

Helmand, *****, 806 N. Charles St. 410-752-0311, Mount Vernon
Afghani, $$, www.helmand.com
Scrumptious Afghani food at a more than fair price. The appetizers here are so good that it's hard to leave room for an entrée! If possible, bring friends so you can all share several dishes: leek and potato pastries and sweet pumpkin in garlic for starters, then lamb, for instance, or some of the great vegetarian items. Relaxing and tasteful atmosphere, too. If Hamed Karzai can run a country a quarter as well as his brother runs the Helmand, things will truly be looking up in Afghanistan.

Henninger's Tavern, ***, 1812 Bank St. 410-342-2172, Fell's Point
New American, $$$$$, www.henningerstavern.com
Good food and good drink. Try the pan-fried breaded oysters.

Holy Frijoles, ****, 908 W. 36th St. 410-235-2326, Hampden
Mexican, $$
We like it! Hip place with fun décor—chili-shaped lights, weird clocks, funky sculptures—and good food at a fair price. Yummy salsa and the chimichangas are particularly satisfying. Even though it's currently expanding, it's still small, so there's often a wait. Pricier than average mexican cuisine. (Second location: 420 N. Charles St., 410-752-2121)

Hull Street Blues Café, ***, 1222 Hull St. 410-727-7476, Federal Hill
American, $$, www.hullstreetblues.com
Great spread of homemade dishes at this all-you-can-eat place. Sandwiches start at $6, but entrees can get pricey. Try a Bloody Mary in a glass rimmed with Old Bay!

Ikaros, *****, 4805 Eastern Ave. 410-633-3750, Canton
Greek, $$
One of a several authentic Greek restaurants to choose from in Greektown. Portions are large and the food is tasty, and, yes, flaming cheese is served here.

Images Cards and Café, **, 3120 St. Paul St. 410-235-3054, Charles Village
American/Coffee, $$
Nice little café with a very nice owner; plenty to satisfy both your sweet tooth and your caffeine cravings. This is one of the few places that may make you feel as if Charles Village really is a village, not simply another inappropriately named section of the city.

IXIA, *, 518 N. Charles St., 410-727-1800, Mount Vernon
New American, $$$$$$, www.ixia-online.com
If you can afford to eat here, they'll serve you nicely presented Asian-fusion cuisine in a décor best described by our colleague Elaine Sullivan as "something half Elton John, half Miss Havisham."
Jeannier's, **, 105 W. 39th St., 410-889-3303 , Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
French, $$$$$
Expensive but pleasing traditional French fare. The waiters are less well-versed in tradition, though, and ask you what "veen" you'd like with your dinner. We're not quite sure what language they think they're using, but they mean wine. Excellent steaks with béarnaise sauce.

Jimmy's Restaurant, ****, 801 S. Broadway 410-327-3273, Fell's Point
American, $
Jimmy's has one of the cheapest breakfasts you'll find in Baltimore and also serves typical American fare such as burgers and steaks for lunch and dinner. Local politicos hang out here to keep tabs on public opinion.

John Steven Ltd., ****, 1800 Thames St. 410-327-5561, Fell's Point
Seafood/New American, $$, www.johnstevenltd.com
John Steven is a friendly bar with excellent food. There is a separate dining room and patio seating, too. The steamed seafood is delicious, as is the sushi. Waits for a table can be long on weekends, so you might consider eating at the bar.

Kabob Hut, ***, 13 Allegheny Ave, 410-821-8005, Towson
Middle Eastern, $
Small place serving succulent kabobs and excellent pita bread. Friendly and fast service. We recommended it.

Kathmandu Kitchen, ****, 22 W. Allegheny Ave., 410-847-9595, Towson
A good addition to the Towson dining scene albeit more Indian than Nepali. For a unique experience, try the goat meat based dishes. Momos are very good for appetizers. The decent ambience and great service makes up for the basement location.

Kawasaki, ****, 413 N. Charles St. 410-659-7600, Mount Vernon
Japanese, $$$$$
This is our favorite place for sushi in Baltimore, although it isn't cheap. The chefs are excellent and the seafood always fresh. The broiled eel served over rice makes a rich and hearty meal. If you feel like being extravagant, spring for one of the beautiful sushi boats—they feed at least two people. Otherwise try a sushi combo. A la carte, the tiger's-eye sashimi is excellent. Try to nab one of the fun window seats where you take off your shoes and sit on the floor.

Kobe Teppan and Sushi, ****, 1023 N Charles St. 410-685-0780, Mount Vernon
Japanese , $$
Watch your server/chef fling eggs up in the air, speedily dice vegetables with a scary hatchet, and peel shrimp in a flash, all at your table, which also serves as a grill. Entertainment while you wait for your food to cook and it tastes good too. Have a drink on the Thirteenth Floor before and/or after your meal.

Kumari, ****, 911 N. Charles St. 410-547-1600, Mount Vernon
Indian, $$$
The most authentic Indian food in Baltimore that serves delicious food. It’s a nice restaurant with
great service and friendly employees.

La Guadalupana, ****, 500 S. Wolfe Street 410-276-2700, Fell's Point
Mexican, $
The simple restaurant, tucked in the same building as a South American grocery store, is about as
authentically Mexican as you can get. The food ranges from tripe soup chicken enchiladas to
tostadas to goat tacos. Your waiter might or might not speak English.

La Tavola, **, 248 Albemarle St. 410-685-1859, Little Italy
Italian, $$$$$, www.la-tavola.com
La Tavola has homemade pasta dishes prepared with fresh, high-quality ingredients. The décor is a
little more contemporary than that of other Little Italy restaurants.

Latin Palace, ****, 509 S. Broadway Street 410-522-6700, Fell's Point
Latin, $$$
This roomy, two-floor joint offers dance lessons, drinks, and a variety of tapas. There is often a
cover charge of around $10, but ladies get in for half price.

Legal Sea Foods, ***, 100 East Pratt Street 410-332-7360, Inner Harbor
Seafood, $$$$$, www.legalseafoods.com
Large menu of good fresh seafood.

Lexington Market, ****, 400 West Lexington Street 410-685-6169, Fax: 410-547-1864 , Inner
Harbor
Seafood, $, www.lexingtonmarket.com
A collection of stands and markets. Large variety of food (including fresh seafood like oysters and
crabs. Reminds me of NY Chinatown. Cheap and fast food. Has music playing on weekends and is
a fun place to walk around.

Liquid Earth, ****, 1626 Aliceanna Street 410-276-6606, Fell's Point
Vegetarian, $
If vegetarian is your thing, this place is for you. The meatless sandwiches and the fruit smoothies
have scored Best of Baltimore awards in recent years.

Little Havana Restaurante y Cantina, *****, 1325 Key Hwy.  410-837-9903, Federal Hill
Cuban, $$, www.littlehavanas.com
Interesting Cuban décor—it's always fun to have something to look at when there's a lull in the
conversation—although the cigars they sell are from the Dominican Republic. Only one pool table,
but plenty of waterfront tables outside, where you can eat empanadas and drink carafes of sangria.
Excellent happy hour prices, including Yuengling drafts for $1. Free Cuban buffet on Fridays.
Sunday brunch is sort of the opposite of Hull Street Blues—here you get only one plate of food, but
the drinks are unlimited. For the sake of a diversified experience, we recommend trying both!

Los Amigos, ***, 5506 Harford Road, 410-444-4220, Towson
South American, $$, www.losamigosbaltimore.com
Excellent Peruvian food. You order and pick up at the counter. You definitely need a car to get there.

Mad River, ****, 1110 S. Charles St. 410-727-2333, Fell's Point
Australian, $$
Come have a Fosters and munch on a Kangaroo pinwheel (yes, really!) at this Australian-owned hangout located in a former bank. Fancier dishes are available as well, such as paillard of emu. They have pool tables.

Mamie's Café, ***, 911 W. 36th St. 410-366-2997, Hampden
American, $, www.cafehon.com
Mamie's offers standard items such as steak, pasta, and chicken entrees and sandwiches. Be sure to try their desserts.

Martick's, ****, 214 W. Mulberry St. 410-752-5155, Mount Vernon
French, $$$$$
Don't be put off by the inauspicious exterior. Owner Morris Martick will eye you up, then let you in. You could easily make a meal of the fabulously rich sweet-potato soup that comes in a huge bowl (for which they have no doggy-bags, so you can't save it.

Matsuri, ****, 1105 S. Charles St. 410-752-8561, Federal Hill
Japanese, $$
Matsuri excels at the Japanese art of food presentation. Its hip but understated décor makes the small dining room an ideal place for a date. The menu features traditional Japanese dishes, including sushi, that are as delicious as they are aesthetically pleasing.

Max's on Broadway, ***, 737 S. Broadway 410-675-6297, Fell's Point
New American, $ $$, www.maxs.com
With 68 different taps and over 200 bottled brands, the beer selection is much more varied than the clientele usually is. It has its charm, though. We like it when it's not packed with people and we're in the mood for a new or different beer. (Second location: 300 W. Pratt St., 410-234-8100, Inner Harbor)

McCafferty's, ****, 1501 Sulgrave Ave., 410-664-2200, Mt. Washington
Steakhouse, $$$$$
Sports-themed décor and succulent steaks, plus an ample wine bar.

McCormick and Schmick's, *****, 711 Eastern Ave. 410-234-1400, Inner Harbor
Seafood, $$$$$, www.mccormickandschmicks.com
A great seafood chain with a fantastic happy hour.

Melting Pot, **, 418 York Rd., Suite 420, 410-821-6358, Towson
Fondue, $$$$$$$, www.meltingpot.com
Eating a main course and a dessert fondue here can get very pricey, although both are quite good. We recommend just coming in for a rich chocolate fondue, perhaps after a movie at Towson Commons, which is just across the street.

Mick O'Shea's Pub, ****, 328 N. Charles St. 410-539-7504, Mount Vernon
Irish, $$, www.mickosheas.com
Whether you're craving shepherd's pie, bangers and mash, some live Irish music, or just a well-poured Guinness in a real pub setting, this is the place for you.

Minato, ***, 800 N. Charles St. 410-332-0331, Mount Vernon
Japanese, $$$
The regulars seem to love this place, but we prefer the sushi and the more subdued atmosphere at Kawasaki. Still, Minato's has an excellent array of more filling, non-sushi items, with some interesting daily specials worth trying. Only open for lunch (until 2:30 pm) Monday through Thursday.

Miss Shirley's, ***, 410 W. Cold Spring Ln., 410-889-5272, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
American, $$$, mysite.verizon.net/bizpv1l4/index.htm
Restaurant specializing in breakfast & lunch from the owners of Alonso's & Loco Hombre. Local favourite due to its creative cuisine, fresh ingredients and great taste. Highly recommended.

Mo's Crab and Pasta Factory, ***, 503 Albemarle St. 410-837-1600, Little Italy
Italian/Seafood, $$$
Huge servings of—you guessed it—pasta with seafood. The seafood is fresh; the pasta well cooked (i.e. not too cooked); and the two are tied together with rich, slow-simmered sauces.

Moxley's, ***** , 25 Allegheny Ave., 410-825-2544, Towson
Ice Cream, $, www.moxleys.com
Undoubtedly the best ice cream in Baltimore. An awesome selection of toppings. Perfect for a trip after the tiring shopping adventure in Towson. Highly recommended.

Mt. Royal Tavern, ***, 1204 W. Mt. Royal Ave. 410-669-6686, Mount Vernon
American, $$
Located near the Maryland Institute College of Art, it's a favorite hangout for art students as well as the occasional JHU grad student. The beer is cheap and the people-watching is excellent. It's packed on weekends, but weeknights are usually fairly mellow. Warning: Cash Only.

Mt. Vernon Stable, **, 909 N. Charles St. 410-685-7427, Mount Vernon
American, $$$
Gay bar that's pretty pleasant. Restaurant upstairs, downstairs bar with 25 wings for happy hour.

Mt. Washington Tavern, ***, 5700 Newbury St. , 410-367-6903, Mt. Washington
American, $$$$ , www.mtwashingtontavern.com
The tavern tends to attract a J. Crew set, but we like it anyway. The food is good, but the service is sometimes a bit slow. Try the brunch when they've rolled back the roof over the leafy back room.
Mughal Gardens, ****, 920 N. Charles St. 410-547-0001, Mount Vernon
Indian, $$$
Of the Mt. Vernon Indian restaurants, Mughal Gardens has the best selection at its $8 dollar lunch buffet. On par with Kumari and the Bombay Grill.

Nam Kang, ****, 2126 Maryland Ave. 410-685-6237, Charles Village
Korean, $$$$
You know how sometimes it's midnight before you get around to thinking about dinner, and suddenly you realize you're starving but everything seems to be closed? This is a great place for those times: it serves delicious Korean food, with friendly service, until about 2 am. You'll start off with several little dishes containing items ranging from kimchi (that spicy pickled cabbage) to tiny dried fish to bean sprouts, to a few things we haven't figured out yet, but they're all good. Then try a barbecue or flavorful soup. The only thing we wouldn't recommend is the excessively sweet plum wine.

New No Da Ji, ***, 2501 N. Charles St. 410-235-4846, Charles Village
Korean/Japanese, $$$
American all-you-can-eat culture meets the fine art of sushi preparation. Bulk sushi is the prevailing concept here. It's not great, but you can have as much as you want for $8.95 at lunch, $14.95 at dinner. A regular menu of Japanese and Korean food is also available.

Nick's Inner Harbour Seafood Co., ***, 1065 S. Charles St. 410-685-2020, Federal Hill
Seafood, $$$
Located in the Cross Street Market, Nick's is a longtime Baltimore favorite. Get there early so you can snag a stool to enjoy your oysters, steamed shrimp, crab cake or sushi, along with a 32-oz. beer.

Niwana, ***, 3215 N. Charles St. 410-366-4115, Charles Village
Japanese/Korean, $$$
Quality food from a non-chain restaurant that's close to Homewood campus—super slow service! Reasonably priced Bento-boxes for lunch that are quite tasty (except for the beef teriyaki, which is tough and unpleasant). They come with miso soup, a California roll, salad, rice, and tempura. One annoying detail—you don't get the special sauce for your side of tempura. For dinner, try the octopus in spicy sauce. Hint: if you don't order Korean food, you won't get the fun assortment of free appetizers (like Kim Chi, sprouts, beans, and potato salad), but the sushi is good here, so it's a dilemma. Our solution is to convince at least one person in your party to go for something Korean, while you order a nice big sushi combination.

No Way Jose Café, ***, 38 W. Cross St. 410-752-2837, Federal Hill
Mexican, $$$
The place can get raucous and loud, which can be fun if you're in the mood for it. Try the habanero chicken wings or the super-tacos.

Obrycki's, ***, 1727 E. Pratt St. 410-732-6399, Fell's Point
Seafood, $$$$
Obyck's is a traditional Baltimore crab house. It closes during the winter, but in the summer it serves up some tasty crabs in a slightly nicer setting than your average crab house. Note that it has its own peppery seasoning—it doesn't use the traditional Old Bay. It's also a bit more expensive than other places, and the non-crab seafood is of varying quality. Their house beer is made by the Brimstone Brewing Company.

One World Café, ***, 100 W. University Pkwy., 410-235-5777, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
New American, $$, www.oneworld-cafe.com
Good coffee goes hand in hand with good food at One World Café, and its proximity to Homewood campus makes it a pleasant place to go for a break. Its purple canopy can't be missed, and it is a great addition to the area. The original Federal Hill location should not be missed either. It has a much homier, comfier feel to it than the University Parkway one. The mismatched furniture and odd-shaped rooms make it a natural place to linger over coffee and a newspaper (or journal article, or students' papers). The chalkboard menu is a little less fixed than its newer counterpart, too. Both are quite vegetarian friendly. The half-priced burritos and quesadillas on Tuesdays are an awesome deal. (Second location: 904 S. Charles St., 410-234-0235, Federal Hill)

Orchard Market Café, ***, 8815 Orchard Tree Ln., 410-339-7700, Towson
Persian, $$
Fabulous Persian food in an unlikely, desolate shopping plaza location. The décor is actually extremely pleasing, once you get inside. We (ignorant Americans) had never tasted anything quite like the walnut-pomegranate sauce, available on various meats, including duck. For dessert, we had two kinds of ice cream: saffron-flavored, which was amazingly smooth and creamy (sort of like eating pure butter, only not gross), and lemon-vermicelli, which was intensely acidic, strangely crunchy, and pretty refreshing.

Orient Express, **, 3111 St. Paul St. 410-889-0003, Charles Village
Chinese, $
Cheap Chinese food for dine-in, carryout, or delivery. It's not the greatest Chinese food you can get, but it's not the worst either. With the Hopkins alumni card, you get a free soda. Good lunch specials, but avoid the sushi.

Owl Bar, *****, 1 E. Chase Street 410-347-0888, Mount Vernon
Former speakeasy where Zelda Fitzgerald used to dance on the bar; it's a classy kind of place for brunch or drinks.

Panera Bread, ***, 1238 Putty Hill Road , 410-821-9111, Towson
American, $, www.panera.com
Located in a great shopping location (Towson place), this bakery chain provides a relaxed, comfortable dining environment. Great bread, great soups and great sandwiches. Try their fresh lemonade and the frontega chicken sandwich. New sandwiches keep appearing and disappearing from the menu providing avenues for a unique experience on every visit. Their is a new location also on York Road (2131 York Road)
Paolo's, **, 301 Light St, 410-539-7060, Mount Vernon
Italian, $$$, www.paolosristorante.com
Paolo's is a slightly upscale Italian restaurant serving good but unexciting food. (Second location: 301 Light St. 410-539-7060)

Paper Moon Diner, ****, 227 W. 29th St. 410-889-4444, Charles Village
American, $$$
If you want to take some out-of-town visitors to a place whose weird and unique-to-Baltimore decor they won't forget this is the place. The menu has lots to choose from and the food ranges from average to quite good. We love the sweet potato fries. Most importantly, they're open 24/7, although they do have an annoying policy whereby each person has to order at least $5 worth of food. Also, the restrooms haven't locked for as long as we can remember.

Pasta Mista, ***, 822 Dulaney Valley Rd, 410-321-8855, Towson
Italian, $$
Located in the strip mall opposite to Towson Town Center Mall on Dulaney Valley Rd. Serves excellent, authentic Italian food where the folks behind the counter talk amongst themselves in Italian !! Great pizzas and excellent onion rings.

Paul Chen Hong Kong Restaurant, **, 2426 N. Charles St., 410-235-8744, Charles Village
Chinese, $$
Possibly the best Chinese food delivery around here, with a caveat for cold noodles, which are better at Peking House. Kinda sketchy with a cheap lunch buffet. Alternate phone number: 410-235-8745.

Pavan Foods, *, 8904 Harford Road, 410-663-3201, Towson
Indian, $
This grocery store has a small Indian vegetarian restaurant in its back. The weekday buffet at $5.50 is the cheapest Indian buffet in Baltimore and the price is reflected in the food. Forget the food, choose rather from the large variety of Indian "fast" food appetizers such as Samosas, dhokla etc. They also sell home-made Indian sweets.

Pei Wei Asian Diner, **, 6302 York Road, 410 433-2176, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Chinese, $$, www.peiwei.com
Beautiful interiors and good service. Reasonably priced. The Kung Pao chicken over brown rice is excellent.

Peking House, **, 11 E. Baltimore St. 410-539-8183, Inner Harbor
Chinese, $$
Satisfying Chinese food delivery service, with decent soups and the best cold sesame noodles for your money. Alternate phone/fax number: 410-539-8184.

Peter's Inn, ***** , 504 S. Ann St. 410-675-7313, Fell's Point
New American, $$$$$$, www.petersinn.com
Peter's Inn is, in the best Baltimore tradition, simultaneously upscale and downscale. It combines great food and slightly higher prices with a very homey and friendly pub atmosphere. The overall effect is that of a nice neighborhood bar combined with an out-of-the-way locals' favorite cafe. The place is small. Besides the bar, there are about 5 or 6 four-person tables, and a couple of two-person tables. The menu is different every week (except for one or two regular items), with a half-dozen entrees. Fare varies from steak, to seafood, to pasta—from conventional to inspired. Every entree comes with a Caesar salad and yummy garlic bread. The only downside is the price—expect to spend at least $15 per person just for food. But if what you're yearning for is exceptional food in an intimate and friendly atmosphere without the pretense, Peter's is definitely the place to go.

Pete's Grille, ****, 3130 Greenmount Ave. 410-467-7698, Waverly
American, $$
Cheap, hearty breakfast in this little joint is well worth the wait. The most highly recommended breakfast place in Baltimore. They also serve lunch; come hungry. Watch the hours. They close 2pm. Fun fact: Olympic swimmer, Michael Phelps is frequently seen eating there and ate here every morning while training.

Petit Louis Bistro, ***, 4800 Roland Ave, 410-366-9393, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
French, $$$$$, www.petitlouis.com
This outstanding Cindy Wolf enterprise does an excellent job of recreating the décor of a Parisian bistro, complete with zinc bar top and narrow tables placed closely together. Entrees range from a simple quiche to complex offerings such as duck confit and bouillabaisse. But don't omit the appetizers—try foie gras or escargots—and save room for the cheese and dessert courses. Great for a special occasion.

Phillips Harborplace, *, 301 Light St. 410-685-6600, Inner Harbor
Seafood, $$$$$, www.phillipsfood.com
This Ocean City favorite does a good tourist business in the Inner Harbor, but we aren't sure exactly why. It's not the worst place to go for seafood in the Harbor, but it's certainly not worth waiting in the long lines that are especially typical in the summer.

Pickles Pub, *, 520 Washington Blvd. 410-752-1784, Inner Harbor
American, $$
This place is close to Camden Yards, making it quite crowded when the Orioles are in town. We prefer taking the walk to the Wharf Rat.

Pierpoint, *****, 1822 Aliceanna St. 410-675-2080, Fell's Point
This elegant restaurant offers sophisticated variants on traditional Maryland dishes. With dishes such as smoked crab cakes, the emphasis is on seafood. The intimate dining room is perfect for a romantic dinner.

Pizzeria Uno, **, 201 E. Pratt St., Pratt St. Pavilion, 410-625-5900, Towson
Pizza, $$$, www.pizzeriauno.com
Good traditional pizza, but it gets crowded. If you're making a special trip, you're probably better off going to the one in Towson, which is also a good place to grab a late dinner after a movie at Towson Commons. The daily lunch specials are an excellent deal. (Second location: 1 W. Pennsylvania Ave., 410-825-8667, Towson)

PJ's Pub, $$$, 3333 N. Charles St. 410-243-8844, Charles Village
American, $$
This is the closest place to get a drink when you're on the Homewood campus. The food here is consistently inconsistent, but service is friendly and the nightly specials are really a good deal: 20 cent wings on Mondays, 50 cent tacos on Tuesdays, half-price burgers on Wednesdays, cheap steamed shrimp on Thursdays, and $5 for a large, albeit greasy, cheese pizza on Sundays (additional toppings are extra). On days other than Sunday, you get a free pitcher of soda or cheap beer with any large pizza, or a reduced price on good beer. Weekday specials begin at 5 p.m.; the Sunday pizza deal runs all day.

Purim Oak, $$, 321 York Rd., 410-583-7770, Towson
Korean, $$$
Really good dinner buffet with soup, sushi, and over 60 Asian dishes. Come hungry!

Rainforest Café, **, 825 Delaney Valley Rd., 410-321-0300, Towson
New American, $$$$; www.rainforestcafe.com
Like real rain forests, extinction seems to be a problem here—some of the best appetizers from the old menu have gone the way of the dodo. Apparently there are sometimes long lines outside this place: if so, don't bother. However, we went there rather late and were pretty amused by the rampant capitalism (adjoining store in which they broadcast ads telling kids how great the restaurant is) and unbelievably elaborate, cheesy décor—fake jungle including swinging automated monkeys, a roaring jaguar, elephants with swinging ears, an authentic aquarium, and pretend thunderstorms that are a nuisance if you stay for very long. Nonetheless, and we're pretty bummed to have to admit this, the food was decent. Worth taking foreign visitors to, because they'll never believe your description without seeing the "real" thing!

Red Maple, **, 930 N. Charles Street 410-547-0149, Inner Harbor
New American, $$$
If you come here dressed reasonably well but wearing Keds, they won't seat you (yes, we speak from experience). So we haven't tried this place. Word has it that the crowd is trendy and the food—Asian-influenced tapas—is presented in a very classy way. Décor is sleek, modern, minimalist: we didn't know it was even possible to make a fireplace seem un-cozy.

Red Robin, *, 1238 Putty Hill Ave., 410-823-4224, Towson
American, $$, http://www.redrobin.com
Located in Towson place mall. This is a chain restaurant serving a variety of burgers and are famous for their cheeseburgers. The interior is designed like a '50s diner. Don't go there if you are a vegetarian.

Regi's, $$, 1002 Light Street 410-539-7344, Federal Hill
American, $$$$
This friendly restaurant is built in two 1860s rowhouses. Dining options range from crab cakes to steak to an assortment of vegetarian fare.

Rocky Run Tap and Grill, ***, 3105 St. Paul St. 410-235-2501, Charles Village
American, $$$
The service at this self-proclaimed "Neighborhood Joint" ranges from mediocre to poor, but the food is actually decent—try the voodoo pasta. It's fun to order a ten-men dip and experiment with some of the numerous hot sauces (leave the "Mad Dog" alone, though!). Fun loud atmosphere. We don't like any of Rocky Run's own brews, but they have DeGroen's and other good beers on tap, so it's okay. It's a good place to get in touch with your childish side, since there are crayons with which to draw on the paper tablecloths and they give you lollipops with the check.
www.rockyrun.com

Ruby Lounge, ***, 802 N. Charles St. 410-539-8051, Inner Harbor
New American, $$$$$
Also a Donna's enterprise, the Ruby Lounge consistently offers excellent New American cuisine with international influences. And the menu changes often, so there's almost always something new to try. At the side, there is a dark, smoky martini lounge.

Ruby Tuesday, *, 401 York Road, 410-825-1334, Towson
American, $$, www.rubytuesday.com
Popular chain restaurant known for its appetizers, burgers and sandwiches! Popular with Towson University students for watching games.

Ruby Tuesday's, *, 3003 N. Charles St., 410-467-8155, Charles Village
American, $$
There's one in the Homewood, so we mention it for the sake of completeness. The food is pretty decent, though the menu is not exactly innovative, and the noise level tends to be quite high. Slowest service imaginable. (Second location: Towson Commons, 410-832-5528, Towson)
www.rubytuesday.com

Rusty Scupper, ***, 402 Key Highway 410-727-3678, Inner Harbor
Seafood, $$$$$
A great view of the harbor complements quality seafood here. Order the stuffed flounder if you get the chance. It's expensive though, so instead of dinner, you might consider having drinks and appetizers at their popular happy hour.

Ryleigh's Brew Pub and Raw Bar, ****, 36 E Cross St. 410-539-2093, Federal Hill
American, $$, www.ryleighs.com
The beers are truly wonderful, and occasional seasonal and "experimental" beers are good for an adventure. The food is quite good, especially when it's Cajun. Jambalaya and gumbo are among the options. Ryleigh's also periodically holds wine and scotch tastings.

Sabatino's, ****, 901 Fawn St. 410-727-9414, Little Italy
Italian, $$
Sabatino's is a favorite among local celebrities and politicians, and we like it too. Try an appetizer of calamari or fresh mozzarella, tomato, and basil. The pasta dishes are enormous; we always end up taking some home. Although it has a silly name, the "tortellini in tortellini sauce" is delicious. Bonus: open until 3 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, midnight the rest of the week.

Saigon Remembered, **, 5857 York Road, 410-435-1200, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Vietnamese, $$$
Across from the Senator, it's of the few Vietnamese restaurants around. Try the pho, it's tasty. They also have summer rolls and a refreshing spicy squid salad.

Samos, ****, 600 Oldham St. 410-675-5292, Canton
Greek, $$
Bring your own beer! Melitzanosalata (eggplant spread) and fried calamari are two of the most popular choices at this inexpensive Greektown option.

Sam's Bagels, *, 500 West Cold Spring Lane, 410-467-1809, Roland Park, Tuscan, Canterbury & Senator Theatre Vicinity
Bagels, $, www.samsbagel.com
One of the several locations in Baltimore, Sam’s Bagels offers a wide variety of flavored bagels and good breakfast sandwiches.

San Sushi Too, **, 10 West Pennsylvania Avenue, 410-825-0907, Towson
Japanese, $$$$ Connected (literally) to Thai One On. If you're in Towson and have the urge for sushi, this is a good place to go.

Sierra Grill, ***, 10 1105 W. 36th St. 410-235-8556, Hampden
Southwestern, $$$
The Sierra Grill boasts reasonably priced food that “is to die for.” The entrees are of a southwestern theme and stand out from “generic Loco Hombre” dishes. Groups of 20 or more are entitled to the “VIP section” where “psychedelic tapestries” and “overstuffed pillows” complete a dining experience “not to be missed.”

Sip & Bite, ****, 2200 Boston St. 410-675-7077, Canton
American, $
A Baltimore institution, and Canton's least yuppie establishment, this diner is always open and serves up all the classics like meatloaf, burgers, and chicken liver omelettes anytime.

Sotto Sopra, **, 405 N. Charles St. 410-625-0534, Mount Vernon
Italian, $$$$$, www.sottocoprainc.com
Trendy Italian dining featuring homemade pasta dishes and excellent desserts. Trendiness doesn't come cheap, though.

Spike and Charlie's, ***, 1225 Cathedral St. 410-752-8144, Mount Vernon
New American, $$$$$, www.spikeandcharlies.com
Spike and Charlie's is located right across from the Meyerhoff and Lyric concert halls and is a popular spot for dinner after a show. The New American cuisine is excellent, as is the wine cellar. Periodically, they host wine tastings.

Spoon's Coffeehouse and Roastery, ****, 24 E. Cross St. 410-539-6751, Federal Hill
$ This comfortable coffee shop roasts its own coffee daily, and it boasts a wide selection of organic and free-trade coffee. Spoons also serves breakfast and light lunch.

Starbucks, ***, 1340 Smith Avenue 410-435-6530, Mt. Washington
Coffee, $, www.starbucks.com
That chain espresso bar from Seattle. The coffee is decent and you can sit at an outside table for as long as you like to study, read a book, or just watch all the yuppies drink lattes after shopping at Whole Foods next door. Another location is located inside the Barnes & Noble at Towson Circle.

Strapazza, ***, 12 W. Allegheny Ave., 410-296-5577, Towson
Italian, $$$
Friendly and casual family restaurant with moderately-priced good Italian food. Eat here and then head to Moxley's which is right across the street.

Sushi Hana, ****, 6 E. Pennsylvania Ave, 410-823-0372, Towson

Szechuan House, ****, 1427 York Rd, 410-825-8181, Towson
Chinese, $$ It is probably baltimore's first "real" chinese restaurant according to a Gro guide editor. Tasty Szechuan, Hunan, and Cantonese dishes. Don't forget to ask for the special menu- You will also get a sorbet at the end for a complete wholesome experience!!

Tamber's Nifty Fifties Diner, **, 3327 St. Paul St. 410-243-0383, Charles Village
American/Indian, $$$ In addition to regular "diner" fare (what you would expect to eat here, judging by the chrome and vinyl decor), this place serves a number of Indian dishes that are really quite tasty. Indian delivery from Tamber's provides a nice alternative to Chinese or pizza. Newly renovated

Tapas Teatro, **, 1711 North Charles Street 410-332-0110 , Mount Vernon
Spanish, $$$, www.tapasteatro.net
Next to the Charles Theater, Tapas Teatro seems to have declined, in terms of food quality, since its opening. Tapas implies small portions, but the prices are disproportionate, and the less-than-stellar fare doesn't merit the long wait for a table.

TGI Friday's, *, 825 Dulaney Valley Rd., 410-828-4556, Towson
American, $$$. www.tgifridays.com
Part of a national chain, Friday's offers decent American food in a setting of artificial festivity. Located in the Towson Town Center, Friday's is often crowded on evenings and weekends; we're not convinced it's worth waiting for a table.

Thai Landing, ****, 1207 N. Charles 410-727-1234, Mount Vernon
Thai, $$$
This elegant Mt. Vernon Thai restaurant serves a number of excellent dishes. Try the chicken and lemongrass soup. Spicy means spicy here, but the friendly, efficient staff will double check before letting you order anything totally out of your league.

Thai Restaurant, ***** , 3316 Greenmount Ave. 410-889-6003, Waverly
Thai, $$$
In spite of the unimaginative name and its unexciting outside appearance, this place is very pleasant inside. It has fine service, and the food is delicious. Try some of the squid dishes or pad Thai and the Thai iced coffee. Best Thai food, hands down.

Thaiish, ****, 804 N. Charles St. 410-752-5857, Mount Vernon
Thai, $$
Fairly cheap, tasty Thai food. Seating is limited, so we recommend this place for carryout, and we really wish they delivered.

The Golden Gate Noodle House, ***, 6-8 Allegheny Ave, 410-337-2557, Towson
Chinese, $$
Good chinese cuisine. What's entertaining about this place are the infamous rude waitresses (Its kind of funny in a way !!)

Thirteenth Floor, ****, 1 E. Chase Street 410-347-0888, Mount Vernon
Located on the top floor of the Belvedere. The main attraction here, of course, is the view. A must for all your out-of-town visitors—show them how pretty Baltimore is from above! Great Happy Hour deal on drinks, but don't come hungry, since the best they can do is some peanuts or olives.

Tio Pepe, ***, 10 E. Franklin St. 410-539-4675, Mount Vernon
Spanish, $$$$$
Tio Pepe serves traditional Spanish cuisine in an elegant, even romantic setting. The food is good, but we're not sure it's quite worth the price. A good date restaurant, though.

Tony Cheng's Szechuan Restaurant, **, 801 N. Charles St 410-539-6666, Mount Vernon
Chinese, $$$
Certainly the most elegant Chinese restaurant in Baltimore, Tony Cheng's has quite good food. But we frankly think the prices are a bit too high at around $10.00 an entrée.

Towson Diner, ***, 718 York Road, 410-321-0407, Towson
American, $$, www.towsondiner.com
A diner with a full bar! Standard diner fare and good service.
U-Jung Kwan, ***, 1216 W. 20th St., 410-230-0423, Charles Village
Korean, $$$
The panchan (tiny free appetizers) selection is lovely here, the service friendly, and as far as we can
tell, all the food is good. The Korean pancakes are great, as is the sizzling octopus. If you're in the
mood for a hearty yet delicately flavored soup, try the Duk Mandu Guk which has beef dumplings
and rice cakes.

Vaccaro's, *****, 222 Albemarle St., 410-685-4905, Little Italy
Italian, $
BIG desserts in Little Italy. A very popular night time place that’s always crowded. All the desserts
are amazing. If you’re not in the mood for an enormous dessert, try a child size Italian cookies and
cream gelato. Fantastic cannoli. Also good for espresso drinks. You can have a free dessert on your
birthday (as long as you buy another dessert of equal value). On Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m., all
you can eat and all you can drink (non-alcoholic) for $12.00.

Wharf Rat’, ****, 801 S. Ann St. 410-276-9034, Fell's Point
American, $$$
The Wharf Rat, with one location in Fell's Point and one on Pratt Street in the Inner Harbor, is the
home of Oliver's Ales. These British-style beers are some of the best in town, and both locations
have traditional cask-conditioned hand-pulled beers. The Best Bitter is particularly excellent. The
Wharf Rat serves good bar food, although the beer is the real highlight of the place. The Fells Point
location is more laid back, and dogs are allowed.

Women's Industrial Exchange, ***, 333 N. Charles St. 410-685-4388, Mount Vernon
American, $
Eating at the Women's Industrial Exchange is a truly historic experience. It was founded in 1882 as
a place for women to support themselves by selling needlework and baked goods. Old-fashioned
American fare is served for breakfast and lunch on weekdays only by mom-like waitresses. The
prices are old-fashioned too (read: extremely low). Word has it that a few of the "needleworkers"
here moonlight as quite good tattoo artists.

XandO Coffee and Bar, ****, 3003 N. Charles St. 410-889-7076, Charles Village
Coffee, $$
Colorful, comfy seventies decor meets new millennium prices. Coffee shop by day, bar by night.
After a sandwich or salad, you can make your own s'mores, or try other rich desserts. In fact we
usually skip the sandwich and go straight for the desserts. An awesome, artsy place. Also a very
popular date place close to campus.

XS, ***** 1307 N. Charles Street 410-468-0002, Mount Vernon
New American, $$$
XS (pronounced “excess”) has 4 levels, each one beautifully appointed. "Breakfast all day" plus a
sushi bar for an evening snack or fancy meal out; or it's great for a drink, and they have gorgeous
desserts in the little glass-shelvy thing. Various sushi, quiche and green salad, cappuccino, Irish
coffee, red wine and manhattans have all been tested by the reviewer, and were all terrific. Go pick
up a late night glass of red wine among the dozens of candles flickering on the brick walls on the
3rd level—your date will be very impressed. Half a block south of Penn Station, it's conveniently located to pick up a pastry on your way to catch a morning train.

Yabba Pot, *****, 771 Washington Blvd 410-962-8638, Mount Vernon Vegetarian, $$
A great vegan and vegetarian restaurant with fantastic atmosphere. The menu changes every day.

Yung's Carryout, *, 818 Guilford Ave. 410-539-8200 or 410-539-8201, Mount Vernon Chinese, $
Relatively cheap Chinese food, available for carry-out or delivery. But remember, you get what you pay for.

Ze Mean Bean Café, ****, 1739 Fleet St. 410-675-5999, Fell's Point Eastern European, $$, www.zemeanbean.com
You wouldn't know it from the name, but Ze Mean Bean is an excellent place to come to dine on Polish or other Eastern European dishes. Try the pierogies or the halupkis; a dinner portion will only set you back less than $10. If you can't decide what you want, try the Slavic sampler appetizer. They also serve a number of tasty New American entrees and sandwiches. To avoid the crowds, go on Saturday. The Bloody Marys are good and you should save room for homemade dessert, like a chocolate or cinnamon babka.

Zodiac, ***, 1724 N. Charles St. 410-727-8815, Mount Vernon New American, $$$
Next door to Club Charles; generally quieter even at the bar. Art-deco style decor and a few interesting dishes. Their menu has become more limited recently, but still not a bad place to eat before or after a movie at the Charles. Vegetarian (and vegan) dishes are available.

Zorba's, ***, 4710 Eastern Ave. 410-276-4484, Canton Greek, $$$
Check out the meat being cooked on giant skewers over charcoal! Good prices, good entrees. Special mention for the roast chicken, and also the lamb chops. Try some Taramasalata with warm pita slices for a starter.

Best of Baltimore List (according to City Paper)

| Best New Restaurant: Pazo                     | Best Fried Chicken: Tyrone’s                  |
| Best Fancy Restaurant: Petit Louis           | Best Lake Trout: The Roost                   |
| Best Restaurant for Vegetarians: The Yabba Pot | Best Soul-Food Restaurant: Symone’s Soul Café |
| Best Chinese Restaurant: Chinatown Café     | Best Pizza: Fortunato Brothers               |
| Best Caribbean Restaurant: Caribbean Kitchen | Best Pizza by the Slice: Pizzaland           |
| Best Ethiopian Restaurant: Dukem Ethiopian Restaurant | Best Gut-Buster: Beef Yaki Soba |
| Best Greek Restaurant: Ikaros                | Best Place To Get A Sandwich: Carma’s Café  |
| Best Indian Restaurant: Ambassador Dining Room | Best BLT: New Wyman Park Restaurant          |
| Best Italian Restaurant: Amici’s             | Best Diner: Holiday Restaurant               |
| Best Mexican Restaurant: Los Amigos          | Best TakeOut: Bangkok Place                 |
| Best Tortilla: Tortilleria Sinaloa          | Best Waterside Dining: Nick’s Fish House    |
| Best Middle Eastern Restaurant: The Helmand  | Best Kid-Friendly Dining: Amer’s Café       |
|                                            | Best Place to Eat Alone: Kyodai Rotating Sushi Bar |
Best Thai Restaurant: Thai Restaurant
Best Tapas/Small Plates: Kali’s Court Mezze
Best Sushi: Kiku Sushi
Best Raw Bar: Nick’s Inner Harbor Seafood
Best Crab House: Mariner’s Landing
Best Place to Buy Cheap Crabs on the Fly: Waverly Crabs and Seafood
Best Crab Cake: Crab Cake Factory
Best Cup of Coffee: A Common Ground
Best Breakfast: XS
Best Brunch: Midtown Yacht Club
Best Home Fries: Uncle Eddie’s
Best Bagels: Goldberg’s Kosher New York Bagels
Best Bakery: Patisserie Poupon
Best Dessert: Seven Tastes of Chocolate
Best Vegan Desserts: Zodiac Restaurant
Best Fries: Petit Louis
Best Hamburger: Swallow at the Hollow
Best Barbecue: Andy Nelson’s
Best Pit Beef: Bull on the Run

Best Late-Night Dining: Nam Kang
Best Bar Food: Kisling’s Tavern
Best Happy Hour: Red Fish
Best After After Hours Spot: Butts and Bettys
Best Local Beer: Resurrection (Brewer’s Art)
Best Selection of Beers on Tap: Max’s on Broadway
Best Cocktail Menu: Ixia
Best Neighborhood Bar: Koco’s Pub
Best Corner Bar: Dizzy Issie’s
Best Sports Bar: Super Star Inn
Best Wine Bar: Grand Cru
Best UpScale Bar: Gordon’s Bar and Lounge
Best Gay Bar: Grand Central
Best Lesbian Bar: Gallagher’s Bar and Grill
Best Bar That Makes You Forget You’re in Baltimore: Red Maple
Best Local Drinking Institution: Mount Royal Tavern