

Restaurant recommendations from the locals

Within walking distance

On campus

L'Albatros (French bistro/brasserie) Elizabeth M.: Everything I've had there has been good. The terrine du chef appetizer is quite good, as is the chicken liver and foie gras. The veal short rib (dinner only) is spectacular. It's also right on campus, very close to the Village. 11401 Bellflower Rd., Cleveland, OH 44106. Tel: (216) 791-7880.

Falafel Cafe (Middle Eastern) Elizabeth M.: I've only been there once (it's new), but it seemed pretty good, and it's quite convenient. 11365 Euclid Ave Cleveland, OH 44106. (216) 229-9540.

The Coffee House (Coffee, tea, sandwiches) Elizabeth M.: The best coffee place on campus. Good atmosphere (in an old mansion with lots of outdoor seating). The iced mochas are particularly good. 11300 Juniper Road Cleveland OH 44106. 216-791-0300.

Sergio's (Brazilian) Elizabeth M.: Nice place right on campus. Outdoor seating is pleasant. It's pretty small, so reservations are probably a good idea. 1903 Ford Drive Cleveland, OH 44106-3923. (216) 231-1234.

Little Italy

La Dolce Vita (Italian) Recommended by Peter as his favorite place near campus. Elizabeth M.: Nice Italian place. I've always like the "greco" pizza, and the bread is very good. 12112 Mayfield Road Cleveland, OH 44106-1924. (216) 721-8155.

Trattoria (Italian) Terri: Trattoria in Little Italy has decent food at decent prices. They have a little patio for outdoor dining, too. 12207 Mayfield Road Cleveland, OH 44106-1925. (216) 421-2700.

Mamma Santa's (Sicilian) Elizabeth M.: The quintessential casual American-Sicilian place, complete with red-checked table cloths. Pasta and pizza are great, and cheap. A student favorite, and good for families. 12305 Mayfield Road Cleveland, OH 44106-1927. (216) 421-2159.

Coventry (longer walk or campus shuttle)

Pacific East (Sushi) Joe: I think Pacific East has the best sushi in the University area. The lunch specials are reasonably priced. The color scheme of the restaurant is very pleasant and makes for an intimate atmosphere. The tea cups have an interesting texture. I suggest that you take a group of people, that way you can order enough food to have it brought out on a boat. 1763 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. Tel : 216.320.2302.

Mint Café (Thai) Joe: I suggest the Thai Style basil chicken at Mint Cafe. It's one of their signature dishes. I also like the spring rolls. 1791 Coventry Rd Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. Phone: (216) 320-9915.

Tommy's (eclectic casual) Elizabeth M.: This is the best place to go with a group containing vegans and meat-lovers. The food is great; most of it is pub or diner-type fare, but very well prepared. They also have egg creams and good milkshakes. Good for families. 1824 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. 216-321-7757.

Shaker square

Balaton (Hungarian) Joe: I've only been to Balaton once. They have a soup special on Friday. I don't remember the name. Dr. Varga ordered everything in Hungarian, I don't speak Hungarian. I do remember it being *very* good. It was served with a bone-in pork shank. I felt like I was having lunch in my Grandmother's kitchen, except I was talking to a version of my Grandfather who is 20 years older and has a PhD. 13133 Shaker Square Cleveland, Ohio 44120. Ph: 216.921.9691.

Fire (Continental) Elizabeth M.: Somewhat upscale; good food and hip atmosphere. They cook a lot of things in their woodburning ovens. 13220 Shaker Square Cleveland, OH 44120-2315. (216) 921-3473.

Downtown

Lola (American) This is a fancy place headed by the celebrity chef Michael Symon. Elisabeth W.: The food is very good and the atmosphere elegant, but it can get quite loud. Reservations are a must. 2058 East 4th Street Cleveland, OH 44115-1024. (216) 621-5652.

Greenhouse Tavern (Farm-to-plate movement) This place has gotten a lot of attention as an excellent new restaurant in Cleveland. Elisabeth W.: The food is very good and super-organic – they don't even serve decaf coffee. They're very into local stuff, and the salads are excellent. The atmosphere is a bit rustic. 2038 East 4th Street Cleveland, OH 44115. (216) 443-0511.

Brasa (Brazilian Churrascaria) Elizabeth M.: Lots of fun and fantastic food for meat lovers. They have a good salad bar, but if you're not into grilled meat, you'll miss the best part. 1300 West 9th Street Cleveland, OH 44113-1031. (216) 575-0699.

Crop (American) Upscale, local-food oriented. Elisabeth W. particularly likes the cornbread. 1400 West 6th Street Cleveland, OH 44113-1305. (216) 696-2767.

On Cedar

Anatolia Café (Turkish) Elisabeth W. recommends. 2270 Lee Road Cleveland, OH 44118-3433. (216) 321-4400.

Melt Bar and Grilled (Casual) Gourmet grilled cheese. Nilgoun recommends. 13463 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights, OH. (216) 965-0988.