

A Taste of Vancouver

Restaurant Guide

So many restaurants, so little time!

The following list of restaurants includes only a small fraction of the dining establishments in Vancouver*. Some selections are aimed at UBC based visitors with time constraints and others are perhaps more suitable for the visitor with a car and some leisure time. All restaurants included are in visitor-friendly areas, many of which are great starting places for explorations of the city. If you are looking for more information on dining around the city, you will find a list of websites at the back of the guide each of which provides reliable critiques.

The guide is divided into zones, based on distance from the University campus. Zones I – IV can be easily reached by bus while Zone V is for those with a car.

*This list is a compilation of restaurant recommendations made by clients, conference delegates and Vancouver Magazine; they do not necessarily represent the opinions of Conferences and Accommodations at UBC.

Bon Appetit!

For reviews or more information, visit these websites:

Dining Out Guide: <http://www.diningoutguide.com/>

Vancouver Magazine: Dining Out ~ www.vanmag.com/diningout/default.html

Dining in Vancouver ~ www.cs.ubc.ca/spider/boritz/food/restmain.html

Emenus ~ www.emenus.ca.

The Sushi World Guide ~ www.sushi.infogate.de/rest/na_canada_vancouver.htm

Restaurant.ca ~ www.restaurant.ca/

Or, for the latest reviews, pick up on of Vancouver's fabulous free weekly magazines like The Georgia Straight, The Westender or the Courier.

~LEGEND~
\$ - less than \$10 \$\$ - \$10 to \$20 \$\$\$ - \$20 to \$30
\$\$\$\$ - more than \$30

Zone I: UBC GOLF CLUB AND POINT GREY

This area has restaurants that mostly cater to university folk and local residents looking for casual dining at an affordable price. It's hard to go wrong in this area as mostly all restaurants have something lovely to offer. Nevertheless, here are a few suggestions.

Brock House Restaurant

3875 Point Grey Road ~ 604-224-3317 ~ \$\$\$

Gracious dining right on the beach in a heritage mansion bordering Jericho Park. Open daily from 5:30pm onwards with a Sunday Brunch from 11:00am – 2:00pm.

Provence Mediterranean Grill

4473 West 10th Avenue ~ 604-222-1980 ~ \$\$\$

As the title suggests, this restaurant specializes in Mediterranean and Provencal cuisine. Fine dining in a casual atmosphere. Open Monday to Friday from 11:30am – 10:00pm, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00am – 10:00pm.

Some Kinda Pasta

4409 West 10th Avenue ~ 604-222-0220 ~ \$\$

A cut above the standard pasta joint. Well-handled, standard fare with a better than average wine list. Open daily from 11:30am – 10:00pm.

Westward Ho! Public House and Grill Room at University Golf Club

5185 University Boulevard ~ 604-224-7799 ~ \$\$

Half a mile from campus, this comfortable haven in a park-like setting is open from 9:00am-8:00 pm Monday to Friday and offers coffee and muffins starting at 7:00am for the early morning weekend golfer.

Burgoo

4434 West 10th Avenue ~ 604-221-7839 ~ \$\$

A neighbourhood soup and stew house that serves up big bowls of comfort. This unique restaurant specializes in comfort food, from Chicken Fricassee to Pacific Chowder. Just five minutes away on the bus. Open daily from 11:00am-10:00pm.

Wabi Sabi

4422 West 10th Avenue ~ 604-222-8188 ~ \$\$\$

This restaurant features unusual and inventive dishes that exploit the more wondrous side of Japanese cooking. The unique design is a simple minimalist format – no wall décor, good tables, sushi bar, and tatami rooms. Open daily from 5:00pm-11:00pm.

Zone II: WEST BROADWAY AND KITSILANO

Between Alma Street on the West and Granville Street on the East, this district is known for its variety of international restaurants. For every restaurant mentioned here, you'll find ten others just doors away.

Annapurna

1812 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-736-5959 ~ \$\$

A local favorite, this fully vegetarian Indian restaurant is open daily from 12:00pm – 10:00pm.

Bishop's

2183 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-738-2025 ~ \$\$\$\$

Often rated one of Vancouver's best restaurants, Bishop's serves exquisitely fresh, West Coast food at its finest. Excellent service and wine list with an ever-changing array of original paintings. Try the famous Death by Chocolate, Pierre Trudeau's favorite. Dinner begins at 5:30pm daily.

Chianti's

1850 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-738-8411 ~ \$\$

A favorite for Italian dining with the locals, this restaurant offers reasonably priced and very filling pastas, seafood, chicken, and veal dishes with a range of sauces. Great wine list and a flexible and friendly staff. Good for large parties, casual family dining or a romantic meal. Open Monday through Thursday, 11:30am – 10:00pm, Friday and Saturday from 11:30am – 11:00pm, and Sundays from 3:00pm – 10:00pm.

Great Wall Mongolian Barbeque Restaurant

2897 West Broadway ~ 604-739-4888 ~ \$

The food is fresh and tasty and good for everyone, including vegetarians. Pick your own ingredients from a wide selection and have it flash grilled right before your eyes. Open 11:30am – 10:00pm daily.

Las Margaritas

1999 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-734-7117 ~ \$\$

All the gringo faves: enchiladas, tacos, burritos, fajitas, with combinations for the undecided and plenty of surprises. Among them: burritos filled with grilled tequila-marinated salmon and covered with a chipotle cream sauce. Delicious! Open from Sunday through Thursday, 11:30am – 10:00pm, Friday and Saturday 11:30am – 11:00pm.

The Living Room Bistro

2958 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-737-7529 ~ \$\$

Food in a unique comfy setting that is a big hit with everyone who's tried it. Think of diner food raised to the ultimate (chicken pot pie, great steaks) with a touch of inventiveness (quail, tapas). Open Monday to Thursday from 5:30pm, Friday to Sunday from 12:00pm.

Lumiere

2551 West Broadway ~ 604-739-8185 ~ \$\$\$\$

Voted "Critic's Choice Restaurant of the Year" more than any other restaurant in Vancouver, Lumiere presents a marriage of contemporary and classic French food within a popular tasting menu. Open for dinner starting at 5:30 pm. Closed on Mondays.

Mark's Steak and Tap House

2485 Bayswater Street at Broadway ~ 604-734-1325 ~ \$\$

Huge servings, half price pastas on Mondays, half price pizzas on Tuesdays and big steaks! Large beer selection. Open Monday to Saturday from 11:30am-1:00am, Sundays 11:30am-12:30am.

Milestone's

2966 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-734-8616 ~ \$\$

Local version of popular chain that is known for interesting starters and main courses. Charbroiled burgers with mango chutney and cream cheese, lavish portions and sinful desserts. Open Monday to Friday, 11:00am – 11:00pm, Saturday 9:30am-12am, and Sunday from 9:30am – 10:00pm.

Montri's

3629 West Broadway ~ 604-738-9888 ~ \$\$-\$\$\$

One of the city's best Thai restaurants. Spiced tod mun (fish cakes) or spring rolls make a nice start. After that, closing your eyes and pointing is guaranteed to work. Open Monday to Saturday 5:00pm-10:00pm.

The Naam

2724 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-738-7151 ~ \$

Vancouver's original vegetarian restaurant, as cozy, funky, and friendly as ever. Round-the-world menu, generous servings, beer and wine available, tiny garden patio for summer days and evenings. Open 24 hours a day!

Ouzerie

3189 West Broadway ~ 604-739-9378 ~ \$\$

Lively, frenetic, tables shoehorned in, but still a ton of fun. Starters can make a meal: try the blisteringly hot saganaki zinged with lemon juice, melitzano aromatic with mint and garlic. Generous souvlaki and lamb chops sold by the piece. Open daily 11:30am – 3:00pm and 4:00pm – 10:00pm.

Quattro on Fourth

2611 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-734-4444 ~ \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

This outstanding fixture in the Kits landscape brings unusual Italian pastas (strozzapreti paesani, spaghetti piga "for Italians only") to a recently re-tooled room. Bocconcini and prosciutto wrapped in radicchio is a wonderful starter. The wine list is impressive in size and scope, rife with good reds and huge grappa selection. Open daily 5:00pm – Midnight (or until the last customer is ready to leave).

Shijo

2nd Floor 1926 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-732-4676 ~ \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

The name translates as "Fourth Avenue", but when it comes to its Japanese menu offerings, words fail to describe. Classic, very well handled Kyoto-style cooking draws patrons from far and near. Open for lunch Monday to Friday 12pm – 2:00pm, and daily for dinner from 5:30pm – 10:00pm.

Sophie's Cosmic Café

2095 West 4th Avenue ~ 604-732-6810 ~ \$\$

A local legend with a constant line-up out the door. Boasting offbeat décor and comfortable, diner-style breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Features include: Old fashioned milkshakes punched up with espresso; Mexican scrambled free-range egg brunch with spicy sausage, great chops, ribs and much more. Open daily from 8:00am – 9:00pm.

Rossini's Pasta Palazzo

1525 Yew Street ~ 604-737-8080 ~ \$\$\$

Fun, lively jazz venue specializes in pasta and is home to some of the city's best musicians. Try their delicious red snapper cannelloni. Open from 8:00am – late.

Tangerine

1685 Yew Street ~ 604-739-4677 ~ \$\$

Try seared salmon in a spicy lemongrass broth with noodles and julienne vegetables, or wok-tossed tofu with peanuts, chilies and lime. Desserts innovative too. Try the coconut macadamia tart with basil ice cream or grilled pineapple with chili mango sorbet. Open daily from 5:00pm – 11:00pm

Tropika

3105 West Broadway ~ 604-737-6002 ~ \$\$

Satays are popular, as is the roti canai-Malay bread with a curry dipping sauce. If veering towards vegetables, try sambal bunchies-fiery green beans with coconut milk. Tons of seafood: carp, pomfret, prawns, calamari and clams with chili sauce. Live crab is served Kuala Lumpur-style (coated with crushed, dried shrimp), curried or Singapore-style with chilies. Open daily from 11:00am-10:30pm.

Zone III: GRANVILLE, FALSE CREEK AND CITY CENTRE

Dining in the core of the city is so varied that visitors may want to enlist a local foodie! You'll almost certainly find something to enjoy from this list, but remember, this is only a sampler.

Banana Leaf Malaysian Restaurant

820 West Broadway ~ 604-731-6333 ~ \$\$

The roti canai pancake appetizers are delicious. Choose a main dish apiece or split them among group members. Ask about the popular seafood special nights. Open daily from 11:30am – 3:30pm, and from 5:00pm – 10:00pm.

Bridges

1696 Duranleau, Granville Island ~ 604-687-4400 ~ \$\$\$

Granville Island spot is locally famous for its casual wharf-side patio. But sometimes overlooked is its vaulted second-storey dining room and the innovative and elevated cooking found therein. The seafood-heavy menu changes weekly, but if the roasted monkfish with Sevruga caviar, oyster-cream mizuna and mustard oil happens to be offered, well, lucky you. The Bar and Bistro is open daily from 11:00am – 12:00am; and Bridges' Dining Room is open from 5:30pm-10:00pm daily, with a Sunday brunch offered from 9:30am-2:00pm.

“C”

1600 Howe Street ~ 604-681-1164 ~ \$\$\$\$

A lovely False Creek location for this contemporary restaurant that takes an intriguing spin on local and seasonal seafood. Lauded for its innovation, “C” is open daily from 12:00pm-3:00pm for lunch, and from 5:00pm-11:00pm for dinner.

Fish House in Stanley Park

8901 Stanley Park Drive ~ 604-681-7275 ~ \$\$\$\$

Charming setting in 1,000 acre downtown park with serious attention to food, from the ultimate clam chowder to pan roasted ahi tuna. Walk it off around the Seawall or Lost Lagoon. Open Monday to Saturday from 11:30am, dinner from 5pm onwards. Sunday brunch offered from 11:00am.

Joe Fortes

777 Thurlow Street ~ 604-669-1940 ~ \$\$\$\$

With a great location overlooking Robson Street, Joe Fortes has something for everyone. With a rooftop patio open year-round, extensive seafood menu and oyster bar, this is a great meeting spot. Open daily from 11:00am – 11:00pm.

Monk McQueen's Fresh Seafood & Oyster Bar

601 Stamps Landing ~ 604-877-1351 ~ \$\$\$

If you lived on False Creek, you'd eat here – either in Monk's entry level pasta and oyster bar or above, in McQueen's Upstairs, where there's a variety of well-handled seafood as well as other entrée choices. Enjoy water, city and mountain views from all windows. Open daily from 11:30am – 1:00am.

Ouisi Bistro

3014 Granville Street ~ 604-732-7550 ~ \$\$-\$\$\$

New entry in the niche-food category. Cajun/Creole as good as it gets, with local art on the walls. Open Monday to Friday, 11:00am – 10:30pm, Saturday and Sunday 9:00am – 11:30pm

RainCity Grill

1193 Denman Street ~ 604-685-7337 ~ \$\$\$

The beach, a sunset and a combination of 125 wines by the glass with great creative cooking, this gratifying combination of bistro and serious restaurant is open Monday to Sunday from 5:00pm, with a brunch Saturday and Sunday from 10:30am-2:30pm.

Star Anise

1485 West 12th Avenue ~ 604-737-1485 ~ \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Small, intimate South Granville room made waves when it opened early in the 90's. It's still a solid, if no longer superlative, contender. In the mains, chef Karan Mookan's menu fuses classic French cooking with Indian influences. Phone ahead. Open daily from 11:30am-2:30pm, and from 5:30pm onwards.

Tojo's

202-777 West Broadway ~ 604-872-8050 ~ \$\$\$

Consistently praised, Tojo Hidekazu has recited his distinct brand of Japanese seafood haiku for almost 30 years. Signatures: tuna, pine-mushroom soup, shrimp dumplings with hot mustard sauce, lightly steamed monkfish and sautéed halibut cheeks. Open Monday to Saturday 12:00pm – 10:00pm, closed Sunday.

Il Giardino di Umberto Ristorante

1382 Hornby Street ~ 604-669-2422 ~ \$\$\$

The city's longtime Tuscan standard bearer has rebounded to the top of the class again. Note the outstanding wine list and fabulous vine-draped patio. Open for lunch Monday to Friday from 12:00pm, dinner Monday to Saturday from 6:00pm. Closed on Sundays.

Vij's

1480 West 11th Avenue ~ 604-736-6664 ~ \$\$-\$\$\$

Runaway winner as Best South Asian Restaurant in this magazine's Critics' Poll. Everything is good, but note an onion-seeded quail dish, a variation of which proprietor Vikram Vij cooked for the annual James Beard dinner in New York. No reservations, prime-time lineups, soothing Chai Tea while-u-wait. Open daily from 5:30pm – 11:00pm.

Zone IV: WORTH A LONGER TRIP

Here's a brief starting list of places to explore beyond Point Grey and the downtown core.

Beach House on Dundarave Pier

150 25th Street, West Vancouver ~ 604-922-1414 ~ \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Dramatic West Van waterfront setting is home to a restaurant that consistently vies for Best North Shore in Vancouver Magazine's annual Critics' Poll. Chef Rob Wheaton has skillfully pulled the menu-especially strong on seafood dishes such as smoked Alaska black cod served with a chive and red-pepper glaze over braised white beans-toward the remarkable wine list. Open daily from 11:30am – 11:00pm.

The Cannery

2205 Commissioner Street ~ 604-254-9606 ~ \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Twenty-eight-year-old institution thrives on waterfront location, beam-laden warehouse decor and understated handling of fish-plus, especially lately, more than a few innovative surprises from chef Frédéric Couton. Inventive desserts and a stellar wine list. Open for lunch Monday to Friday from 11:30am – 2:30pm, with daily dinners starting at 5:30pm.

The Salmon House on the Hill

2229 Folkestone Way, West Vancouver ~ 604-926-3212 ~ \$\$\$

Some of the best seafood in town matched with great views and a tasteful approach to its West Coast Native theme. Generously portioned alder-grilled salmon, grilled oysters, B.C. prawns and a well-constructed wine list still star. Open daily from 11:30am – 2:30pm, and from 5:00pm onwards.

Seasons in the Park

Queen Elizabeth Park ~ 604-874-8008 ~ \$\$\$

A window seat in this expansive room yields one of the best garden, neighbourhood and skyline views going. Entrees emphasize West Coast fish, poultry, veggies. Oyster stew a nice starter, sea bass from the entrees, "sun-burned" lemon pie to finish. Solid service. Good wine list, lovely patio. Open Monday to Friday from 11:30am – 2:30pm, and daily from 5:30pm for dinner.