



# EXPLORE HOUSTON WITH PURPOSE

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## VISITHOUSTON

#HoustonStrong

ing **BOB'S STEAK & CHOP HOUSE** says it all. **CATTLEACK BARBEQUE**'s no roadside joint, and the 'cue is classy. Elegant, lively **FEARING'S** rules the Ritz Carlton. Superlative food in a refined space, with prices to match, at **FLORA STREET CAFE**. At **GEMMA**, enjoy fine New American food in a welcoming blue-and-white room. You'll be lucky to get into little **LUCIA**'s cozy trattoria. In a cheery house, **MIA'S TEX-MEX** turns out Texas's signature cuisine. When at **NONNA**, feast on upscale pasta. Lovely **TEI-AN SOBA HOUSE** hand-crafts soba noodles with a side of serenity. Stodgy Japanese tradition takes a backseat at creative **UCHI**.

### El Paso

**BEST IN TOWN:** From risotto to ribeyes, **CAFÉ CENTRAL** offers the city's finest dining. **THE GRAPE**, a neighborhood favorite, has a fine patio and house-made pasta. The oysters Rockefeller are righteous at popular **PELICAN'S**.

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY:** Will it be burgers or baklava pancakes in **SALT + HONEY BAKERY CAFÉ**'s historic digs?

### Fort Worth

**BEST IN TOWN:** Enjoy steaks and seafood under an antler chandelier at old-school **BONNELL'S**. You don't have to visit the museum to grab an artful bite at **CAFÉ MODERN**. Yum's the word for the bone-marrow toast at casual **CLAY PIGEON**. The fare's Southern inside **ELLERBE FINE FOODS'** buff brick walls. At **GRACE**, a small, elegant setting pampers discerning diners.

### Galveston

**BEST IN TOWN:** Old-timer **GAIDO'S** keeps seafood fresh and simple. For a change of pace, go Greek at **OLYMPIA GRILL AT PIER 21**. **RUDY & PACO** is a quiet, classy haunt for seafood and steaks.

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY:** **TAQUILLO'S** does tacos and tequila right.

### Houston

**BEST IN TOWN:** Wood-fired pizzas and craft cocktails have a cult following at **COLTIVARE**. A serious Italian chef makes **DA MARCO'S** little house the real deal. Greek favorites are reimaged at **HELEN**. **KATA ROBATA** was a leader of the pack when sushi went modern. Just outside Houston at **KILLEN'S** is barbecue worth a drive. Serious chefs play around with **THE PASS'S** eclectic tasting menu. Indian fare has a modern sensibility at **PONDICHERI**. At **UCHI**, the Japanese kitchen doesn't shy away from modern touches. A James Beard-winning chef does Oaxacan fare at **XOCHI**.

### Laredo

**BEST IN TOWN:** Toothsome tapas tempt at **TABERNILLA BAR DE TAPAS**.

### Lubbock

**BEST IN TOWN:** The art's whimsical, the food Mexican at **COCINA DE LA SIRENA**. Even sides and desserts get loving care at **EVIE MAE'S PIT BARBEQUE**. **NEW & NOTEWORTHY:** Expect superb pizzas and sandwiches at **WOODY'S BRICK OVEN PIZZA & GRILL**.

### Rio Grande Valley

**BEST IN TOWN:** **THE CENTENNIAL CLUB**'s old brick storefront in McAllen has class; so does the food. **SALT**'s subtitle—"New American Table"—describes the McAllen destination to a T.

### San Antonio

**BEST IN TOWN:** Neighborhood barbarians toss good pizzas, salads, and cocktails at **BARBARO**. Follow the starlight to **BLISS**, for celebratory dining just south of downtown. Mexican cuisine is reimaged at **MIXTLI**. Travel back (and flash forward) in **RESTAURANT GWENDOLYN'S** riverside time capsule. Try fine French cuisine in a believable Provençal setting at **SIGNATURE**. German tradition weds modern substance at Hotel Emma's **SUPPER**.

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY:** You know what to expect at **NOLA BRUNCH & BEIGNETS**, with weekend jazz too.

### Tyler—Longview

**BEST IN TOWN:** Despite a Longview strip center location, **CAFÉ BARRON'S** goes gourmet and global. A laid-back corner bar houses eclectic, upscale **CORK**, in Tyler.

### Central Texas

**BEST IN TOWN:** Special occasions in Fredericksburg call for old-world charm at **CABERNET GRILL**. **NEW & NOTEWORTHY:** **TREATY HOUSE**, in Fredericksburg, offers tasty bites in a refined limestone lodge.

### West Texas

**BEST IN TOWN:** Evenings are for steaks, lunches for light fare at the Hotel Limpia's **BLUE MOUNTAIN BISTRO**, in Fort Davis. Housed in a historic hotel in Marathon, **12 GAGE** draws travelers and regional residents from miles around for oyster "nachos" and elk-and-bison meat loaf. 🇹🇽