

SOME FAVORITES IN THE FRENCH QUARTER, CBD, WAREHOUSE DISTRICT, AND UPTOWN

1. **Arnaud's**
813 Bienville Street
(504) 523-5433
www.arnaudsrestaurant.com

Pronounced "ARE - knows." The current "Queen" of old New Orleans Creole restaurants, Arnaud's also boasts the most beautiful dining room in the city. The ambitious menu never fails to please with classics like shrimp bisque, shrimp Arnaud (the restaurant's version of shrimp remoulade), pompano David, veal tournedos Chantal, filet mignon au poivre, cafe Brulot ("brew-low"), strawberries Arnaud, and the very best soufflé potatoes in town. For the uninitiated, soufflé potatoes are pillows of air surrounded by a thin crisp of potato, sort of a puffed potato chip, but right out of the kettle, served with Béarnaise sauce. Plan to arrive a half hour (or more) before your reservation and have a drink in the adjacent French 75 bar, the best and most elegant in New Orleans, where you can enjoy the namesake cocktail and an order of soufflé potatoes while you wait, happily, for your table. This is a classy place; so dress appropriately. Reservations recommended.

2. **GW Fins**
808 Bienville Street
(504) 581-3467
www.gwfins.com

Across the street from Arnaud's, an upscale seafood restaurant with a changing menu based on what's fresh that day (with about a dozen or so entrée options on any given day) that serves consistently great seafood. If the lobster dumplings or blue crab pot stickers are on the menu, they're always a hit. You'll be tempted to eat too many of the complimentary sweet drop biscuits that are passed around in the beginning, but be sure to save room for a delicious meal.

3. **Brennan's**
417 Royal Street
(504) 525-9711
www.brennansneworleans.com

Recently renovated, Brennan's is another classic New Orleans restaurant. Bananas Foster is a Brennan's original that's cooked table-side. Great for any meal of the day (and even breakfast typically starts with a cocktail and ends with dessert). Reservations recommended.

4. **Galatoire's**
209 Bourbon Street
(504) 525-2021
www.galatoires.com

Pronounced "GAL – uh – twars." Another elegant old Creole establishment. Jackets are required for dinner, but if you don't have one, you can choose from the collection of navy blazers they keep on a rack by the front door. Reservations are not taken for the best tables downstairs, so you may have to wait a while in the bar upstairs, or you can reserve a table ahead of time in one

of the dining rooms upstairs. Be sure to ask your waiter for the fried eggplant, soufflé potatoes, and gouté (“GOO-tay”) as soon as you’re seated. The gouté is a selection of appetizers for the whole table, usually shrimp remoulade, crabmeat maison, and shrimp maison. Ask your waiter to add oysters en brochette. Then don’t even look at the menu. Just ask your waiter, “What’s good today?”

5. **Sylvain**

625 Chartres (pronounced “Charters” in New Orleans) Street
(504) 265-8123
www.sylvainnola.com

A gastropub with a low-key vibe and excellent, but unpretentious, Southern food. Be sure to check out the patio if the weather is nice. And really, who can pass up a restaurant that has champagne and fries as a starter?

6. **Meril**

424 Girod (“JIH – rod”) Street
(504) 526-3745
www.emerils.com

Emeril’s newest concept located in the Warehouse District. It’s a casual restaurant with an open-style kitchen and a large bar area with a great selection of cocktails and wine. Fun place to grab a drink and an appetizer or to share several dishes from a diverse menu.

7. **Irene’s Cuisine**

529 Bienville Street
(504) 529-8811

Some of the best Italian in New Orleans. Reservations recommended, but you can get a table if you’re willing to wait (and have a drink or two) in the speak-easy style bar. Be sure to kiss Irene on the cheek on your way out.

8. **Domenica**

123 Baronne (“buh – RONE”) Street
(504) 648-6020
www.domenicarestaurant.com

In the CBD, but practically across Canal Street from the Ritz, Domenica is known for its fresh pastas and thin crust pizzas. The whole roasted cauliflower is also always a crowd pleaser. Happy hour seven days a week from 2 to 5 with half price pizza, wine by the glass, well cocktails, and beer. Domenica is in the Roosevelt, so consider grabbing a cocktail at the Sazerac Bar before or after you eat.

9. **Herbsaint**

701 Saint Charles Avenue
(504) 524-4114
www.herbsaint.com

A Donald Link restaurant with Southern, Cajun, French, and Italian touches, the menu covers a broad spectrum – it runs the gamut from shrimp and fish ceviche to gnocchi to crispy goat – but is always full of interesting options. It’s relatively small, so reservations are recommended. If you’re stuck waiting, grab a cocktail and an order of fries at the bar while you wait.

10. **Compere Lapin**

535 Tchoupitoulas (“chop – IT – ooluhs”) Street
(504) 599-2119
www.comperelapin.com

Nina Compton, who grew up in the Caribbean, opened this restaurant in the Warehouse District not long after she came in second on Top Chef. The menu is an amalgamation of Southern, Cajun, and Caribbean flavors, and the flavors are always spot on and refreshing. The cocktails here are creative and shouldn’t be missed if you’re into that kind of thing. And save room for dessert – it’s always beautiful and delicious. Reservations recommended and often hard to get; so call several days in advance.

11. **Dickie Brennan’s Steakhouse**

716 Iberville (“ibberville”) Street
(504) 522-2467
www.dickiebrennanssteakhouse.com

New Orleans style steakhouse featuring big steaks, strong martinis, steakhouse salads, rich soups (try the turtle), and great sides. All sauces are made in-house. Reservations recommended, but not necessary if you don’t mind a little wait time in the clubby bar.

12. **Mr. B’s**

201 Royal Street
(504) 523-2078
www.mrbsbistro.com

You can never go wrong at this New Orleans favorite, run by the Brennan family. The Gumbo Ya-Ya is the best in town and, therefore, on the planet. No need to call for reservations as they hold back 80% of their tables for walk-ins. At dinner, they have a live piano player, which adds to the always festive ambiance.

13. **Central Grocery**

923 Decatur Street
(504) 523-1620

This classic Italian grocery is the birthplace of the New Orleans Muffaletta, a huge sandwich built on a whole round loaf of Italian bread, stuffed with two kinds of salami, prosciutto, provolone and mozzarella cheeses, and crushed olive salad that oozes out around the edges. CASH ONLY, strictly take-out, and open only during the day. So buy a “muff” and a Barq’s (New Orleans own root beer), take a seat down the street in Jackson Square or on the levee across the street and enjoy a real New Orleans treat.

14. **Napoleon House**
500 Chartres Street
(504) 524-9752
www.napoleonhouse.com

This place really would have been Napoleon's house but for a foiled plot to rescue the former emperor from exile and bring him to America. Now it's a great sandwich spot, bar, and bistro day and night. Also the place to go for the warm version of the Muffaletta. Don't mind the peeling paint. The place has hardly been touched since Napoleon's time. Even if you don't eat here, wander by for a nightcap, sit back, and enjoy the nonstop classical music.

15. **Café du Monde**
800 Decatur Street
(504) 525-4544
www.cafedumonde.com

The classic coffee stand at the French Market. Go here for a breakfast of beignets (New Orleans style doughnuts; say, "ben-YAYS") and café au lait (New Orleans chicory coffee with steamed milk) or drop by after dinner for the same thing.

16. **Stanley**
547 St. Ann Street
(504) 587-0093
www.stanleyrestaurant.com

Another nearby breakfast or brunch option where you can have breakfast at any time. Stanley overlooks Jackson Square, so it's very popular and always lively.

17. **Port of Call**
838 Esplanade Ave.
(504) 523-0120
www.portofcallneworleans.com

A dive bar on the edge of the French Quarter, serving the biggest and best hamburgers in New Orleans. Also close to the music clubs in the Marigny ("the Maa - rin - yee"), New Orleans' first suburb and one of the first in America, on the down river side of the French Quarter.

And, if you're headed into the Marigny, other nearby restaurants on Frenchmen Street in the heart of the Marigny music scene include Paladar 511, Adolfo's, Three Muses, and Sukho Thai.

If want to branch out from the French Quarter and explore the "American side" of the city, there are some wonderful restaurants Uptown (the residential area upriver from the French Quarter and the CBD), and they're just a short Uber or Lyft ride away. Some of our favorites include:

1. **La Petite Grocery**
4238 Magazine Street
(504) 891-3377
www.lapetitegrocery.com

It truly never disappoints and is a go-to for most Uptown residents. Great bar with excellent cocktails. Always lively. Wonderful food. And if the weather is nice, they have a little outside seating (a rarity in New Orleans thanks to the temperatures). Reservations recommended.

2. **Clancy's**

6100 Annunciation Street
(504) 895-1111
www.clancysneworleans.com

Another Uptown staple. Grab a drink while you wait for your table. (Are you sensing a pattern Uptown?) Be sure to start with the fried oysters and brie, and the smoked duck is a favorite of many. Save room for a slice of lemon ice box pie or some peppermint ice cream. Reservations recommended.

3. **Saffron**

4128 Magazine Street
(504) 323-2626
www.saffronnola.com

Recently named one of the best new restaurants in the city, and already a New Orleans Top 10 selection, this place features amazing Indian cuisine with an infusion of local ingredients. Even as a pop up restaurant, Saffron was a 'must do' for locals for years, so the full-time restaurant has been welcomed with great enthusiasm. The menu is super approachable, and the dishes are great for sharing. Reservations recommended – it's still relatively new; so it can be hard to get a reservation.

4. **Lilette**

3637 Magazine Street
(504) 895-1636
www.lilletterestaurant.com

A polished French bistro that features a menu with some offbeat ingredients and an array of appealing specials. Grab a drink before dinner next door at Bouigny ("Boo - lin - knee") Tavern, which shares the kitchen, and sit outside at both places if the weather is nice. Reservations recommended.

5. **Commander's Palace**

1403 Washington Avenue
(504) 899-8221
www.commanderspalace.com

Last, but certainly not least, and perhaps greatest of all, is the place the locals call simply Commander's. Situated in the heart of the Garden District and consistently one of the highest rated restaurants in the country if not the world, Commander's offers a truly memorable dining experience. Open for lunch and dinner and, on weekend, brunch. Reservations necessary.

For other ideas, or to find a restaurant that satisfies a craving, check www.nomenu.com, a website that contains lists of restaurants by neighborhood and cuisine – and with ratings and recommendations on what to eat!