

Local Favorite Monterey Area Restaurants (resort casual, unless otherwise noted)

Passionfish – Pacific Grove

Dinner only. A unique California dining experience with serious food and wine in a casual atmosphere. The ever changing menu offers the freshest sustainable seafood, farm fresh organic produce, and slow cooked meats. Menu favorites (changes daily): Grilled or Poached Fish Entrees, Gorgonzola Chutney Salad, Oysters (not on the half shell), Dungeness Crab Salad, Scallops, and the Bread Pudding with Chocolate-Whiskey Sauce is worth the calories. Wine Spectator award winning wine list set at retail prices! Wine & Beer. www.passionfish.net

Pacific's Edge – In The Highlands Inn, Carmel Highlands (Ocean View, Fine Dining)

Dinner only. **Drive time approximately 20-25 minutes.** Fine dining with magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean highlight a unique California wine influenced menu. Menu Favorites: Oysters, Short Ribs, Berkshire Pork Chop, Lamb, Scallops, Salmon, Yellowfin Tuna. Credit Card needed for parties of 6 or more 48 hour cxl policy. Coats not required, just suggested. Full Bar. Live music on Fri. & Sat. www.hyatt.com/gallery/pacificsedg/index.html

Aubergine – In L'Auberge Carmel Hotel (Fine Dining, coats not required)

Dinner only. California cuisine with European influences akin to a Michelin starred restaurant. Course-style wine paring menu changes daily. The wine cellar houses a 4,500 bottle collection seats 10 people. Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Restaurant, Chef Justin Cogley: Food & Wine 2013 -Best New Chef. Wine and cocktails, no seated bar. **Credit card required** 24 hour cxl policy. <http://auberginecarmel.com/> Cancellation Policy and dress code: www.laubergecarmel.com/policies.html#restaurant

da Giovanni – Carmel

Dinner only. Family owned local favorite, using their Grandmother's recipes featuring Italian dishes with a Greek influence. Comfort Food - Pasta, Prime Angus Steaks, Seafood, Chicken, Veal, Lamb, and Vegetarian dishes. Menu Favorites: Greek Salad, *Insalata Greca* (not to be missed), Carpaccio (best in town), Crab Ravioli, Gnocchi di Arezzo Cannelloni (usually on the specials), Phylo-wrapped Halibut, *Filetto Divino* with Green Peppercorn sauce. Wine & Beer. www.threecarmelrestaurants.com/carmel-restaurant-da-giovanni.html

Casanova – Carmel (Outdoor patio dining available)

Lunch & Dinner. Spanish, French, Belgian, and Italian influences set in an eclectic and romantic European atmosphere. Ask to sit on the alfresco on the Fountain Patio. Menu Favorites: Spinach Gnocchi, Garlic Mushrooms, and Lamb. Impressive wine list and cellar (ask your Sommelier for a tour of the cellar). Credit card required for parties of 8 more. Wine, Beer, & Cocktails (no seated bar). www.casanovarestaurant.com

Sandbar and Grill – Wharf #2, Monterey (Marina view)

Lunch, Dinner, and a la carte Brunch on Sundays. Classic Seafood, Ribs, & Chicken. Very casual local favorite on Monterey's Municipal Wharf #2 next to the yacht club. Menu Favorites: Mussels in Garlic and Cream, Fried Calamari, BBQ Ribs, Crab Stuffed Prawns, Scallops, Onion Rings, and any seafood dish with their curry cream sauce. At Lunch: The Crab Avocado Melt and Crab Club. Sunday Brunch: The Prawn and Avocado Omelet and Craig's Benedict with Dungeness Crab, delicious! Easy parking, just drive onto the wharf (coin metered until 8pm). Full Bar (Best Bloody Mary's in town!). Happy Hour at the bar M-F 4pm-6pm. <http://sandbargrillmonterey.com/>

La Bicyclette – Carmel

European Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. Casual French Bistro and Wood Fire Pizza. Romantic European atmosphere. Wine, Beer, and delicious coffees. www.labicycletterestaurant.com

Monterey Fish House – Monterey

Dinner nightly & Lunch M-F. The locals' top rated casual seafood restaurant. Traditional Italian Seafood home-style comfort food. Menu Favorites: Oak Grilled Garlic Oysters (done Medium Rare), Cioppino & Holiday Pasta (house specialties), Oak Grilled Salmon, Sicilian Calamari, Oak Grilled Ribeye, any of the specials (usually the freshest seasonal fish caught that day!) Helpful hint: make reservations and dine early to avoid the crowd. Wine (mostly Monterey County) & Beer. Recently featured on *Diners, Drive-ins, & Dives*. Review: www.yelp.com/biz/montereys-fish-house-monterey-2

Sardine Factory – Monterey, Cannery Row (Dressy Casual)

Dinner only. Local favorite since 1968 serving sustainable seafood and prime steaks with a mix of fine dining and resort casual atmospheres. Menu Favorites: Sand Dabs, Calamari, Ahi Tuna, Abalone, Short Ribs, and Prime Steaks. Don't miss a cup of their signature Abalone Bisque! For a more relaxed feel try the Lounge with jazz piano Tues-Sat. Happy Hour every night in the Lounge 5pm-7pm. Full bar and great wine list. www.sardinefactory.com

Flying Fish Grill – Carmel

Dinner only. Asian Seafood Grill. Longtime local favorite and family owned by Chef Kenny and Tina Fukumoto. Relaxed and cozy dining room with redwood booths. Menu Favorites: Pan fried Oysters, Ahi, Almond Crusted Sea Bass, Black Bean Halibut, Monterey Bay Abalone, and Yin-Yan Salmon. Wine & Beer. <http://flyingfishgrill.com/>

Andre's Bouchée – Carmel Dinner Nightly and Lunch Wed-Sun. Classic yet modern French bistro. Wine and Beer Bar. www.andresbouchee.com

Cantinetta Luca – Carmel

Lunch & Dinner. Rustic Italian Steakhouse menu that changes with the seasons.

Favorites: Milk-Fed Veal Rib Chop, Tuscan Porterhouse, Sardine Crostini, Pumpkin Ravioli, Beef Ravioli, artisan cured meats, and Tiramisu. Full bar & wine list. Talk to your Sommelier before ordering wine (more bottles available in the cellar) Pizza available on lunch menu only. **Credit card required for parties of 5 or more.** www.cantinetaluca.com

La Balena – Carmel Lunch Th-Sun & Dinner Tu-Sun. Artisanal Rustic Italian. www.labalenacarmel.com

Mission Ranch – just outside of downtown Carmel (Amazing View & Outdoor patio dining available)

Dinner from 5pm nightly and Sunday Brunch 10am-1:30pm. **No Reservations get there as early as you can!**

Prime rib, steaks, seafood, burger, and chicken. Patio with a view of a meadow with sheep and Point Lobos in the background. Full Bar. Patio and Bar opens at 4pm M-Sat. Piano dinner music nightly 5pm-8pm and sing-along Piano Bar nightly 8pm–11:30pm. www.missionranchcarmel.com/restaurant.html

Terry's Lounge at The Cypress Inn – Carmel

Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner. Pub/Lounge atmosphere. Dogs welcome. Full Bar. www.cypress-inn.com/restaurant.html

Bistro Moulin – Monterey, Cannery Row

Dinner only. Local favorite. Country European cuisine prepared by owner & chef Didier Dutertre.

Menu favorites: Spinach Gnocchi and Hanger Steak. Beer & Wine. www.bistromoulin.com

Fandango – Pacific Grove

Lunch, Dinner, Sunday Brunch. European country cuisine, excellent wine list, warm Mediterranean setting.

Menu Favorites: New York with Cognac Butter, Paella, Osso Bucco, Shrimp Scampi, & for Brunch: Salmon Benedict. Wine, beer, & cocktails (no seated bar). www.fandangorestaurant.com

Carmel's Bistro Giovanni – Carmel

Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner. Wine country cuisine with an Italian influence in a warm and inviting atmosphere.

Menu Favorites: Bistro Ribs (short ribs), Pumpkin Ravioli (seasonal), Osso Buco, Gnocchi, Charbroiled Filet, *Insalatina Vergine*-Blue Cheese Cherry Salad and *Insalatina Greca*-Greek Salad.

Full Bar. www.threecarmelrestaurants.com/carmel-restaurant-bistro-giovanni.html

The Rio Grill – In The Crossroads Shopping Village (Just outside of Carmel, off Hwy 1 & Rio Rd.)

Lunch, Dinner, & Sunday Brunch. Local favorite for over 25yrs. Regional American menu in a “Santa Fe” style setting.

Menu Favorites: Oak Grilled Burger, Skirt Steak, Ribs, House Smoked Chicken with Artichokes, Quesadillas, Chinese Chicken Salad (unique and delicious). Full Bar. www.riogrill.com

L'Escargot

Dinner only. Country French cuisine in an intimate and relaxed European setting. Wine, beer, & cocktails (no seated bar).

Menu favorites: Duck, Prime Steak, and Sweetbreads. **½ price wine on Wednesdays!** www.escargot-carmel.com

The C restaurant and Bar – In the Clement Intercontinental Hotel on Cannery Row in Monterey (Ocean View)

[Breakfast](#), [Lunch](#), [Dinner](#), and Sunday Brunch. Coastal cuisine with a [view](#) of Monterey Bay.

Happy Hour in the bar Sun-Th 4pm-7pm. Live music Th-Sat. www.thcrestaurant-monterey.com

Restaurant 1833 – Monterey, downtown (Outdoor patio dining available)

Dinner only. California Coastal Cuisine with a speakeasy décor. Popular Bar and Patio. www.restaurant1833.com

Mundaka – Carmel

Dinner. Spanish Tapas. Hip local hot spot, reservations a must! Casual, eclectic, and fun atmosphere

(it can get loud as the night goes on). Local favorite Chef Brandon Miller will surprise you with his innovative menu.

Tapas menu standouts (changes seasonally): Pintxos, Padron Peppers, “Chuleton” Bone-in Ribeye, Paella, Ravioli, the 40 minute egg, and Jamon Serrano. Live Music or DJ on some nights, call for current schedule.

Full Bar and Affordable Wine list. www.mundakacarmel.com

Café Fina – Fisherman's Wharf (Harbor View)

Lunch and Dinner. Fresh Seafood, Dungeness Crab, Live Maine Lobster, Halibut Cheeks (seasonal favorite),

Steaks, Brick-oven Pizza, and fresh House-made Pasta. Wine, Beer, & Cocktails (no seated bar). www.cafefina.com

Cannery Row Brewing Company - Cannery Row (Outdoor dining available)

Lunch and Dinner. Casual Dining. Menu Favs: Short Rib Grilled Cheese & Burgers. Featured on *Diners, Drive-ins, & Dives*.

73 Draught Beers and Full Bar. Open late. www.canneryrowbrewingcompany.com

The Beach House – Pacific Grove (Ocean View. Outdoor dining available)

Dinner and cocktails daily from 4:00pm. Continental Cuisine. Full Bar. www.beachhousepg.com

Anton & Michel – Carmel (Fine Dining)

Lunch and Dinner. California French with classic service. Menu Favorites: Tableside Caesar Salad, Rack of Lamb, Duck

with Cherry sauce, and the Tableside Flambé Desserts. Full Bar. www.carmelsbest.com/antonmichel

Christopher's – Carmel

Dinner only. Chef & owner Christopher Caul's menu features California cuisine with comfort. Seafood, steaks, chops, pasta, and local produce. Menu Favorites: Carpaccio, Short Ribs, and Duck. Full Bar. www.christophersrestaurantcarmel.com

Bistro Beaujolais – Carmel in The Carmel Plaza (Outdoor dining available)

Brunch, Lunch, Dinner. Menu Favorites: Greek Salad, Carpaccio, Dolmas, Short Ribs, and Steak Frites. Live Music in the courtyard with fireplace Thurs-Sun. Full Bar. www.threecarmelrestaurants.com/bistrobeaujolais.php

Dametra Café – Carmel Lunch and Dinner. Greek/Mediterranean. Reservations are a must! www.dametracafe.com

Peppers Mexicali Café – Pacific Grove

Lunch and Dinner. **Closed Tues & No Lunch on Sundays.** Southwest menu served in lively and casual atmosphere. Full Bar. www.peppersmexicalicafe.com

Massaro and Santos – Monterey, on the Coast Guard Pier near Cannery Row (Ocean & Harbor View)

Lunch Tues-Sun and Dinner nightly. Seafood, pasta, and steaks with Italian & Asian influences. Menu Favorites: Oysters Rockefeller, Sole Almondine and Sanddabs. Full bar. www.massaroandsantos.com

Big Sur and Carmel Valley Restaurants - north the drive

Sierra Mar – Post Ranch Inn & Spa, Big Sur (Ocean View, Fine Dining) - Drive time approximately 1 hour.

Lunch and Dinner. Spectacular coastline views in the unique setting of the famous Post Ranch Inn. An imaginative and award-winning menu of California cuisine. Dinner seatings: 5:30pm, 6pm, or 8:45pm. **Credit Card needed to reserve, 24hr cxl with \$50pp (lunch) & \$125pp (dinner) chg if cxl within 24hrs.** Full Bar. (831) 667-2800 www.postranchinn.com/dining

Nepenthe – Big Sur (Pronounced "Ne-Pen-They". Ocean View & Outdoor Dining) - Drive time approximately 1 hour.

Lunch and Dinner. **Reservations are available for parties of 5 or more.** Casual menu with coastal views. Family owned since the 1949. Ambrosia Burger with signature bean salad, Shrimp BLT, delicious fry's, Roasted Beet Salad, Rib Eye (on the dinner menu). Full Bar & Great Wine List. www.nepenthebigsur.com

Café Kevah - walk up eatery at Nepenthe, Brunch daily **weather permitting** from 9am-3:30pm.

Menu favorites: Dungeness Crab Benedict, Brioche French Toast, Arugula Salad, & Mimosas. Beer & Wine.

Corkscrew Café – Carmel Valley - Drive time approximately 30 minutes.

Lunch and Dinner. Owned by artist and winemaker Walter Georis. Serving an eclectic variety of cuisines in a charming setting. Georis Wine tasting room is right behind the bistro. Order a wine flight of Georis Wine with your lunch. Outdoor and indoor seating. Wine & Beer only. <http://corkscrewcafe.com/>

Lucia Restaurant and Bar – Bernardus Lodge, Carmel Valley - Drive time approximately 30 minutes.

Breakfast, [Lunch](#), & Dinner. Newly renovated. Don't miss the Portabella Soup. Full Bar. <http://www.bernarduslodge.com/lucia-restaurant.aspx>

Breakfast and or Lunch

Carmel Belle – Carmel

Breakfast & Lunch (Daily) & Dinner (Wed-Sun) Casual walk up eatery. Perfectly simple quality American Artisan. Menu favorites: Berkshire Pork on ciabatta with red onion-currant chutney, Green Eggs & Ham, and Open Faced Truffled-Mushroom Melt. Beer and Wine. www.carmelbelle.com

Loulou's Griddle in the Middle – Wharf #2 (Outdoor dining available) Featured on Diners, Drive-ins, & Dives.

Breakfast, [Lunch](#), & Dinner Wed-Sat. **Closed Tues.** Very Casual local's place. www.loulousgriddle.com

Trailside Café – Monterey, Cannery Row (View & Outdoor Dining) - CASH ONLY Breakfast & Lunch.

Casual walk up eatery on the Recreation Trail or enter on Wave St. and park in their lot. www.trailsidecafe.com

The Red House Café – Pacific Grove Breakfast M-F 8am-11am, Brunch Sat-Sun 8am-2pm, Lunch M-F, Dinner Tues-Sun.

www.redhousecafe.com

Village Corner – Carmel (Outdoor Patio Dining) Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner. www.carmelsbest.com/villagecorner

California Market – In The Highlands Inn, Carmel Highlands (View & Outdoor Dining)

Breakfast and Lunch only. **Drive time approximately 20-30 minutes.** Menu Favorites: Fish Tacos & the Burger. Full Bar. <http://highlandsin.hyatt.com/en/hotel/dining/CaliforniaMarket.html>