



Top Ten Restaurants in Tampa Bay, Florida

by Jane Gosford, Demand Media

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The city of Tampa lies along Tampa Bay, amidst Florida's west coast and less than 25 miles from St. Petersburg. Tampa features more than 330,000 residents, with close to 20 percent deriving from Latino origin. As a result, the city plays host to numerous eclectic restaurants, including a mixture of high-end and casual eateries, many of which feature full bars. Revered travel guides like Frommers, Fodors and Gayot provide the highest ratings to these 10 Tampa restaurants.



Tampa offers an eclectic array of restaurants.

Bern's Steak House

Located in the Hyde Park region, Bern's Steak House (bernssteakhouse.com) serves up such fare as filet mignon, porterhouse and Chateaubriand. The upscale setting includes grand staircases, exposed brick walls, candlelight, a cheese cave, wine cellars and a dessert room outfitted with private booths.

Columbia

Situated in the Historic Ybor neighborhood, the Latin-themed Columbia (columbiarestaurant.com) offers such tapas dishes as spiced ground beef empanadas, crab cakes and sauteed shrimp in chili pepper. The 1905 restaurant features 15 dining rooms equipped with such items as chandeliers, glass atrium ceilings and ornately tiled floors.

Restaurant BT

Restaurant BT (restaurantbt.com) lies near the Palms Ceia Golf and Country Club. The restaurant provides a host of Vietnamese dishes, including spring rolls, cabbage and herb salad and Vietnamese bouillabaisse with seafood like calamari and salmon. The interior includes white tablecloths, dark wood furnishings and earth tone colored accent walls.

Estela's Mexican Restaurant

Located on Davis Islands, Estela's Mexican Restaurant (estelas.com) features a casual interior complete with brightly colored walls and quilts hung from the ceiling, as well as outdoor patio seating. Combination dishes include rice and beans, while highlight such offerings as enchiladas, burritos and tacos.

Kojak's House of Ribs

The family-owned Kojak's House of Ribs (kojaksbbq.net) dates back to 1978, offering a laid-back setting amidst a wooden white shack equipped with outdoor seating. Barbecue fare includes spare ribs, chicken and hot links. Drinks include beer, wine and sangria. The restaurant lies in Tampa's Bayshore Beautiful region.

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Byblos Cafe

Serving up Mediterranean cuisine like falafels, hummus, gyros and kabobs, Byblos Cafe (bybloscafe.com) sits in the city's Palma Ceia region. On some evenings, the restaurant features belly dancers for entertainment. The setting includes earth tone colors, sheer fabrics draped across the ceiling and a fireplace.

Bella's Italian Cafe

The Soho-based Bella's Italian Cafe (bellasitaliancafe.com) features a relaxed interior outfitted with distressed walls, wood furnishings and patio dining. Menu items include spaghetti and meatballs, tortellini primavera and make-your-own pizzas or calzones. The restaurant also offers curbside delivery.

Ceviche Tapas Bar and Restaurant

The upscale Ceviche Tapas Bar and Restaurant (ceviche.com) includes brick tiled floors, dark leather chairs, mosaic tabletops and painted brick walls. Spanish fare includes various paellas, gazpacho and grilled and marinated squid. The restaurant also features a Sunday brunch and weekly discounted tapas and sangria nights.

Fly Bar & Restaurant

The Fly Bar & Restaurant (flybarandrestaurant.com) lies near the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Dinner includes such varied dishes as Kobe beef sliders, fish tacos and mac and cheese with truffles. The setting includes live musical acts, local artwork and a rooftop deck.

Mise En Place

Mise En Place (miseonline.com) offers American cuisine amidst a high-end interior complete with cherry wood furnishings, white tablecloths and gold-specked walls. The menu features gourmet cuisine like lobster risotto, Moroccan fried quail and barbecue grilled shrimp. The restaurant places diners across the street from the University of Tampa.

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- [Fly Bar & Restaurant: Dinner Menu](#)
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A freelance writer for over 10 years, Jane Gosford has written countless articles for an online pop-culture magazine and various travel-related websites, including Eurobooking and World66. Gosford also has experience in copywriting, having developed a series of articles relating to network marketing. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a degree in theater arts.

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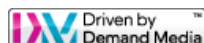
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