

Welcome to New Orleans

A Guide to the Vieux Carré and Beyond...

Greetings and welcome to the 2009 SSS meetings. To help you indulge your urban appetites while in the Crescent City, I have prepared this guide to facilitate whatever hedonistic tendencies might arise at the end of the day after the conference's sessions are over.

The vast majority of the suggestions in this guide are establishments or entertainment found in the Vieux Carré (French Quarter), Central Business District (CBD), the Faubourg Marigny, or are accessible by the St. Charles streetcar or taxi. If you are interested in things or places not mentioned here, please feel free to ask for information or suggestions. New Orleans is full of fun and historic places to discover (especially outside the French Quarter) so take my suggestions here as merely a starting point for experiencing the city. Indulge your sociological imaginations, enjoy yourselves, and "laissez les bon temps rouler!"

Anthony E. Ladd

Loyola University New Orleans

2009 Local Arrangements Committee

Dining

In most cities, people eat to live; in New Orleans, people live to eat! Below are some suggestions for dining that should fit every budget and taste preference. To help you in evaluating what your pocketbook can handle, the following budget descriptions may be of some use: *Inexpensive* = \$20.00 or less per person; *Moderate* = \$20.00—\$40.00 per person; *Expensive* = over \$40.00 per person on the average. Most of these establishments are within walking distance (i.e., 15 blocks or less) from the Monteleone Hotel. Taxis are also relatively cheap and efficient, and should be used for outside the Quarter ventures at night, especially if returning to the hotel late. Reservations may be required for many of the moderate to expensive restaurants, and be sure to ask whether credit cards (or cash only) are accepted.

Central Business District, French Quarter, and Faubourg Marigny Favorites

(Within walking distance of the Monteleone Hotel)

Acme Oyster House — 724 Iberville St. Great place to eat oysters and drink a cold Dixie beer. Po-boys and other local food too. Always crowded. *Inexpensive*.

Adolfo's -- 611 Frenchmen St. Cozy neighborhood Italian restaurant located above The Apple Bar. *Inexpensive*.

Antoine's -- 713 St. Louis St. The city's oldest restaurant and famous for its French Creole dining. Oysters Rockefeller, panpano, Crawfish Cardinal, and baked Alaska are signature dishes. *Expensive*.

Arnaud's — 813 Bienville St. One of the Quarter's famous old-line French and Creole restaurants. Very elegant and romantic. *Expensive*.

Bacco — 310 Chartres St. One of the Brennan restaurants featuring good northern Italian cuisine. *Moderate to Expensive*.

Bayona — 430 Dauphine St. Susan Spicer's nationally-recognized restaurant featuring eclectic Mediterranean and Creole cuisine along with an international wine inventory. *Expensive*.

Brennan's -- 417 Royal St. The home of the Brennan's restaurant empire and famous for Bananas Foster and breakfasts with Bourbon milk punch and Bloody Marys. *Expensive*.

Luke - 333 St. Charles Ave. Located in the former Monoco Hotel, this is a relatively new restaurant with excellent German, French, and Louisiana seafood dishes. *Moderate to Expensive*.

Herbsaint — 701 St. Charles Ave. Another of Susan Spicer's restaurants with exceptional French-Creole cuisine. *Moderate to Expensive*.

Bon Ton Cafe — 401 Magazine St. Good Louisiana Creole/Cajun cooking in a friendly and comfortable atmosphere, but only open Monday–Friday. Great bread pudding for desert! *Moderate to Expensive.*

Broussard’s — 819 Conti. Housed in a building constructed in 1834 offering French and Creole cuisine. *Expensive.*

Café du Monde — 800 Decatur St. Although not actually a restaurant, this famous New Orleans landmark is strictly a café specializing in beignets and cafe au lait. A must for every visitor. *Inexpensive.*

Café Sbisa — 1011 Decatur St. One of the long-established French Quarter restaurants, Café Sbisa offers a Sunday brunch with a live jazz trio. *Moderate.*

Central Grocery Co. — 923 Decatur St. Old-fashioned European-style grocery specializing in Mediterranean delicacies and home of the original “Muffuletta” (tasty Italian sandwich made of Italian meats, cheese, and olive salad on sesame Italian bread). *Inexpensive.*

Clover Grill — 900 Bourbon St. A local, classic American grill. Great place for breakfast at 3:00 a.m. after a night in the Quarter. *Inexpensive.*

Cochon -- 930 Tchoupitoulas St. Creative myriad of Cajun and Southern dishes, with a selection of legal moonshine at the bar. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Drago’s Seafood and Oyster Bar-- Hilton New Orleans Riverside, 2 Poydras St. Fantastic grilled oysters and other standard Louisiana seafood dishes. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Emeril’s Restaurant — 800 Tchoupitoulas St. Housed in a renovated warehouse in the Arts District, this is the flagship of the Emeril restaurants in New Orleans. *Expensive.*

Felix’s Restaurant and Oyster Bar — 739 Iberville St. Very popular spot among the locals for oysters, seafood, and daily favorites. *Inexpensive to Moderate.*

Galatoires — 209 Bourbon St. Considered by locals to be one of the best old-line restaurants in New Orleans featuring Creole masterpieces and excellent service. *Expensive.*

Gordon Biersch -- 200 Poydras St. National chain brewpub, half beer garden/half sports bar. Good home brewed beers and a decent variety of pub food. *Inexpensive.*

Grill Room — Windsor Court Hotel, 300 Gravier St. The elegant atmosphere is the perfect setting to enjoy some of the finest dining in New Orleans. A delightful upscale experience for the well-heeled. *Expensive.*

GW Fins -- 808 Bienville St. Upscale international and local seafood. *Expensive.*

The Gumbo Shop — 630 St. Peter St. Comfortable and unpretentious setting offering a good selection of New Orleans’ favorites and basic dishes. *Moderate.*

Irene's Cuisine -- 539 St. Philip St. Popular and cozy restaurant for Creole Italian food. Almost always a wait but worth it. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Café — 1104 Decatur St. Predictably offers cheeseburgers, margarita's, Jimmy Buffett music, and other Caribbean dishes. *Inexpensive to Moderate.*

K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen — 416 Chartres St. Famous restaurant of Chef Paul Prudhomme where the cajun cooking craze began. *Expensive.*

Louisiana Pizza Kitchen — 95 French Market Place. Innovative and eclectic toppings characterize these individual-sized pizzas baked in a wood burning oven; pastas and salads offered as well. *Inexpensive.*

Marigny Brasserie- 640 Frenchmen St. Very good eclectic cuisine in a comfortable bistro setting. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Maximo's Italian Grill -- 1117 Decatur St. Food bar and booths overlooking an open kitchen grill serving Italian and seafood dishes. *Expensive.*

Mimi's in the Marigny -- 2601 Royal St. Cool neighborhood bar with Spanish tapas, great beer selection, and live music upstairs. *Inexpensive.*

Mona's Cafe -- 504 Frenchmen St. Affordable menu of tasty Middle Eastern standards. *Inexpensive.*

Mona Lisa — 1212 Royal St. Good garlic bread pizza and other dishes at this neighborhood Italo-Turkish restaurant. BYOB. *Inexpensive.*

Mother's — 401 Poydras St. A 50 year-old New Orleans landmark serving po-boys, jambalaya, red beans and rice, and other regional favorites. A good place for breakfast too! *Inexpensive.*

Mr. B's — 201 Royal St. A Brennan family spinoff offering an extensive menu and a more relaxed atmosphere than the other Brennan establishments. Try the Gumbo Ya-Ya. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Mulate's — 201 Julia St. Live Cajun music, dancing, and food in the Warehouse District. *Moderate.*

Napoleon House — 500 Chartres St. Historic building with classical music and a wonderfully ancient setting. Best "bar" for conversation in the Quarter, but try a warm Muffetta or a Pimm's Cup while you're there. *Inexpensive.*

NOLA — 534 St. Louis St. One of Emeril Lagasse's local restaurants specializing in a wide variety of cuisine choices. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Palace Café — 605 Canal St. Housed in the old Werlein's Music building, this Brennan restaurant is a consistent New Orleans standard in good eating. A wide variety of menu choices and desserts including fabulous white chocolate bread pudding. *Expensive*

Palm Court Jazz Café — 1204 Decatur. New Orleans food and traditional New Orleans jazz. *Moderate.*

Pelican Club — 312 Exchange Place. Terrific Louisiana cuisine specializing in creative seafood dishes. It also has a very enjoyable piano bar on weekends! *Expensive.*

Peristyle — 1041 Dumaine St. Nationally recognized restaurant featuring excellent continental/Louisiana cuisine. One of the best restaurants in the Quarter, but sometimes hard to get reservations for. *Expensive.*

Petunia's — 817 St. Louis St. Comfortable restaurant specializing in huge crepes and various Creole dishes. *Moderate.*

Port of Call — 838 Esplanade Ave. Knockout burgers and rum drinks at this popular local hangout on the edge of the Quarter. Always a line. *Inexpensive.*

Praline Connection — 542 Frenchmen St. Some of the best "soul food" homecooking in the city. The fried softshell crawfish or fried pickles make for interesting appetizers! *Moderate.*

Ralph and Kacoo's — 519 Toulouse St. Local family owned and operated establishment specializing in Cajun-style seafood dishes. Good gumbo and drinks too. *Moderate.*

Red Fish Grill — 115 Bourbon St. Another of the famed Brennan restaurants specializing in decent seafood dishes. Good oyster bar as well. *Moderate.*

Remoulade — 309 Bourbon St. Down-sized version of famous Arnaud's Restaurant specializing in contemporary Louisiana cuisine. *Inexpensive.*

Stella! -- 1032 Chartres St. Small cozy and romantic restaurant with a creative menu of global and Louisiana cuisine. *Expensive.*

Tomatillo's — 437 Esplanade Ave. Good Mexican food and margaritas. Outdoor patio too. *Moderate.*

Tommy's Cuisine -- 746 Tchoupitoulas St. Eclectic menu featuring Italian and Creole cuisine. Excellent wine selection from Tommy's Wine Bar next door too. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Tujague's — 823 Decatur St. Classic New Orleans/Creole six course meals in a 130 year-old restaurant. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Some Garden District, Mid-City, and Uptown Dining Suggestions

Brigtsen's — 723 Dante St. An established uptown restaurant that has gained a wide local following for its innovative Creole dishes. *Expensive.*

Clancy's -- 6118 Annunciation St. Superb food and service at this popular Uptown favorite of the lunch and dinner professional crowd. *Expensive.*

Commander's Palace — 1427 Washington Ave. The flagship Brennan restaurant. Considered one of the city's finest Creole restaurants; eating here can be memorable. Reservations, however, can be tough to acquire. *Expensive.*

Dick and Jenny's -- 4501 Tchoupitoulas St. Housed in a bargeboard cottage, this attractive but casual Creole/Southern restaurant has some of the best food in town. *Moderate to Expensive.*

Dooky Chase -- 2301 Orleans Ave. Great creole and soul food classics in a neighborhood restaurant that has served civil rights activists and famous African-Americans since the 1950s. Still recovering from the Katrina flooding, lunch is served in the dining room and take-out orders are available until 7pm. *Moderate.*

Jacques-Imo's -- 8324 Oak St. Very popular and famous local restaurant with terrific and funky New Orleans cuisine. If you eat here, you can easily stumble into the Maple Leaf Bar next door for a night of drinking and local music. *Moderate to Expensive.*

La Crepe Nanou — 1410 Robert St. Authentic French crepes served as various entrées or desert. Daily three-course specials and a versatile wine selection. *Moderate.*

Mandina's — 3800 Canal St. A classic New Orleans neighborhood restaurant. Some of the best Gumbo or Oyster and Artichoke soup around, not to mention the great daily specials and Po-Boys. *Inexpensive to Moderate*

Upperline Restaurant — 1413 Upperline St. An excellent, popular restaurant easily accessible by the St. Charles streetcar, known for fresh grilled fish, pastas, roast duck, trout mousse, and various Creole specialties. *Expensive.*

Good Watering Holes

Crescent City Brew House — 527 Decatur St. New Orleans' only brewhouse featuring locally brewed German beers on premise. Jazz and OK food too!

Carousel Bar -- Monteleone Hotel Lobby, 214 Royal St. Famous Quarter bar of many literary giants. Don't get motion sickness from the revolving bar!

Lafitte's Blacksmith shop — 914 Bourbon St. One of the oldest establishments east of the Mississippi with a cozy atmosphere and piano bar.

Molly's at the Market Pub — 1107 Decatur St. Colorful Irish pub with interesting locals and friendly visitors.

Napoleon House — 500 Chartres St. Previously described in the restaurant section, this is wonderful place to relax with friends and have a few drinks.

Pat O'Brien's — 718 St. Peter St. The French Quarter's most famous drinking spot featuring 3 bars and a New Orleans courtyard for sipping Hurricanes, Mint Juleps and other liquid favorites.

Bars & Clubs for Music

(check the *Times-Picayune*, *Gambit*, or *Off-Beat* for current nightly music listings.)

The House of Blues — 225 Decatur St. Well-known chain club featuring national and local music acts every night of the week. Also features a gospel brunch on Sundays.

Tipitina's — 501 Napoleon St. The New Orleans legendary nightspot for national and local acts. Always a good time, but open only on selected nights—be sure to check local music listings before venturing Uptown.

Snug Harbor — 626 Frenchmen St. One of the best jazz clubs in the city, with an intimate and comfortable setting for good food and drinks as well.

Maple Leaf — 8316 Oak St. Great Uptown bar for Cajun, Blues, and R&B music.

Le Bon Temps Roule -- 4801 Magazine St. Great Uptown bar for beers and free local music every night.

Mid-City Lanes Rock 'N Bowl -- 4133 S. Carrollton Ave. Famous New Orleans retro institution for great Louisiana music, dancing, drinking, and bowling. It's hard NOT to have a good time here.

Café Brasil — 2100 Chartres St. Latin, Caribbean, jazz and reggae music.

Check Point Charlie's — 501 Esplanade Ave. Mixed bag of local alternative music, usually no cover charge.

d.b.a. - 600 block of Frenchmen St. Popular bar with local music and a large beer/wine selection.

Donna's Bar & Grill -- 800 N. Rampart St. Funky club across from Armstrong Park for local jazz groups and jam sessions.

Spotted Cat - 600 block of Frenchmen St. Excellent local jazz and N.O. roots music bar with no cover.

Howlin' Wolf — 907 S. Peters St. Good music club for local and regional groups.

Palm Court Jazz Café — 1204 Decatur St. Previously listed in the dining section, this is also a great place to hear traditional New Orleans jazz.

Preservation Hall — 726 St. Peter St. The legendary traditional jazz establishment. Cramped quarters, but worth the wait for hardcore jazz enthusiasts.

Bourbon Street — The first eight blocks of Bourbon Street are loaded with varied and interesting bars and music clubs for dancing and drinking. Knock yourself out!

Entertainment Fun in the “Big Easy”

Audubon Insectarium -- 423 Canal St. New museum featuring everything you always wanted to know about insects, but were afraid to ask.

Aquarium of the Americas — 1 Canal St. Located at the foot of Canal St. at the Mississippi River in Woldenberg Park, one of the nation's most popular aquariums.

Food and Beverage Museum -- Riverwalk Mall (right next to Convention Center). New museum with excellent exhibits on the history of New Orleans food and drinks.

Entergy IMAX Theatre — 1 Canal St. Located in the Aquarium building, this is one of the nationally known mega-screen theatres immersing viewers in 2D/3D ecological/geographical experiences. Worth seeing if you've never been to one— and it's great for kids!

Canal Street Ferry to Algiers Point — Located at the foot of Canal Street adjacent to the Aquarium complex, this is the cheapest ride in town. This free ferry crosses the Mississippi River and back every 30 minutes to the neighboring historic Algier community where Beat writer William Burroughs once lived. Offers a spectacular view of the French Quarter and CBD from the other side. Algiers is interesting to walk around in and offers some good watering holes as well.

Audubon Zoo/Park — 6500 Magazine St. Located at the rear of Audubon Park is one of America's best zoos and most beautiful parks. This is an easy trip from the Quarter on either the St. Charles Streetcar or the Magazine St. bus.

The Confederate Museum — 929 Camp St. The oldest museum in the city containing memorabilia from the Civil War and the Confederacy.

French Quarter Carriage Rides — Available at Jackson Square on Decatur St., this is a relaxing way to learn a little local history (but not if you're a member of PETA).

Gallier House — 1132 Royal St. Very interesting classic New Orleans home museum circa 1860.

Louisiana State Museum — Jackson Square. Includes the Cabildo (where the Louisiana Purchase was signed), Presbytere, and the Jackson House.

Mississippi River Boat Trips — Departs from Spanish Plaza at the Riverwalk. A number of trips on the Mississippi river, including one to the Audubon Zoo, and nearby bayous are available at various times on a daily basis. Check the information kiosk in Waldenburg Park for details.

The National D-Day Museum - 945 Magazine St. An excellent WW II museum inspired by the work and efforts of the late UNO historian Stephen Ambrose.

New Orleans Museum of Art — Located at the entrance to City Park at the end of Esplanade, NOMA has recently been enlarged and renovated in order to better display its various collections. Check out the Sculpture Garden nextdoor and rest of City Park while you're there.

New Orleans Voodoo Museum — 724 Dumaine St. If "Angel Heart" got you interested in Voodoo and other mysterious sides of Louisiana, you'll enjoy this small museum of history, crafts, and rituals.

The Old U.S. Mint — 400 Esplanade. Contains fascinating museums on the history of New Orleans jazz, Carnival, and related Mardi Gras collections.

St. Charles Streetcar — Besides taking you places you might want to go, it's the best \$1.25 entertainment in town and a great way to see the historic houses on St. Charles Ave.