

SSDBM 2011 Portland Restaurant Guide

There are hundreds of carts, bars and restaurants in downtown Portland. The ones below are included because they are close, cheap or interesting. Note that rail transport (Portland Streetcar and MAX) are free in downtown Portland (buses no longer are). Other navigation help: on this side of the river, W Burnside is the dividing line between NW and SW addresses. Also, north of Burnside the streets are alphabetical: Couch, Davis, Everett, Flanders, ... (extra points if you can figure out how Portlanders pronounce "Couch"). Broadway would be 7th Street if it had a number; Park Avenue is 8th Street and sometimes 9th. Also, leading zeros are significant in addresses: they signify locations west of the Willamette river but east of Naito Parkway. Don't ask me to explain why Portland has five "quadrants".

Food Carts

No visit to Portland would be complete without a visit to one of its 300+ food carts. One of the main "pods" of carts is just north of the hotel on 4th Avenue, across from the metal and cable "TECOTOSH" sculpture. (We like Portland Soup Company.) The largest and most diverse pod downtown is on SW Alder between 9th & 10th Avenues – choices include Korean, Czech, Polish, Egyptian, Turkish, Peruvian and Bosnian. There is another concentration on SW 5th Avenue between Stark and Oak streets. Most downtown carts are open for lunch Monday-Friday. Some are open for dinner; a few open on weekends (but there are food stands both at Portland Farmers' Market and Portland Saturday Market – see the Events listing).

Coffee

If you can't find coffee in Portland, you're not trying. Stumptown is a local favorite (more extra points if you can explain this nickname for Portland).

Brewpubs

Portland is reputed to have the most brewpubs per capita of any US city. Here are ones with outposts downtown.

- Deschutes Brewery Portland Public House, 210 NW 11th Avenue: 18 taps at this branch of Bend's Deschutes Brewery.
- Rogue Distillery & Public House, 1339 NW Flanders: Rogue's mother ship is docked in Newport, Oregon. The local outlet also distills spirits, including Hazelnut Spice Rum and Spruce Gin.
- Brigeport Brewpub, 1313 NW Marshall Street: A Portland original, housed in the former Portland Cordage Company building (whence Ropewalk Amber Ale).
- McMenamin's Market Street Pub, 1526 SW 10th Avenue: Also known as Science III, due to its brick construction and proximity to PSU's other science buildings. Outdoor seating.
- Full Sail Brewery at Riverplace, 0307 SW Montgomery Street: You'll likely see dragon-boat teams practicing in the Willamette on weekends at the local outlet of this Hood River establishment.

- Henry's Tavern, 10 NW 12th Avenue: While located in the old Blitz-Weinhard brewery, no brewing actually takes place here any more. To make up for it, they have over 100 beers and ciders on tap.

Near Campus

- Rogue Hall, 1717 SW Park Avenue: This newly opened branch of Rogue Ales sits near the Simon Benson House on the PSU campus.
- Nel Centro, 1408 SW 6th Avenue: In Hotel Modera; Mediterranean-inspired dishes and wood-oven pizzas in the bar. Large patio area.
- Pizzicato, 1608 SW 6th Avenue: In PSU's Urban Plaza, this Portland-based chain serves pizza by the slice, as well as salads and sandwiches.
- West Café, 1201 SW Jefferson Street: A classy little restaurant featuring local ingredients and live jazz on Saturday nights.
- Carafe Parisian Bistro, 200 SW Market Street: French standards (Coq au Vin, Escargots) plus their own creations (Crispy Lamb Belly, Thyme Roasted Pork Loin). Can be busy in the evenings if there's a performance at Keller Auditorium across the street.
- Harborside at the Marina, 0309 SW Montgomery: A seafood restaurant from the folks who own Jake's restaurants (see below); their fresh sheet usually runs to 20 kinds of fish and shellfish.
- Higgins Restaurant and Bar, 1239 SW Broadway: Strong on local ingredients, dinner entrees run \$20-35. Consider eating in the bar, with dishes featuring their house-made pastrami, smoked seafood and pickles.
- Blue Fin Sushi, 1988 SW Broadway: Closest sushi to the hotel; order from the menu or choose off the conveyor belt.
- Cheerful Tortoise, 1939 SW 6th Ave: Bill Howe points out this is one of the few establishments near campus to get a beer with breakfast.
- Pudding on the Rice, 1503 SW Park Avenue: Savory and sweet crepes, but mostly known for its inventive flavors of rice pudding – Bananarchy Cream Pie, Espresso Self, Raspberry Rousseau. Everything is made fresh daily; they do run out of flavors in the late evening.

South of Burnside

- Jake's Famous Crawfish, 401 SW 12th Avenue & Jake's Grill, 611 SW 10th: Jake's Famous Crawfish is the 110-year-old flagship of the McCormick & Schmick's stable of seafood restaurants (See Harborside above); Jake's Grill is a newer addition with more non-seafood options. Surprisingly, you don't always see crawfish on the menu.
- Red Star Tavern, 503 SW Alder Street: Don't let the "Tavern" put you off – really a restaurant featuring wood-grilled steaks. Happy hour in the bar every day from 4-8pm.
- Grüner, 537 SW 12th Avenue: Alpine and Danube cuisine from Germany, Austria, Hungary and Romania.
- Kenny and Zuke's Delicatessen, 1028 SW Stark Street: House-made pastrami, smoked fish, pickles and rye bread.
- Veritable Quandary, 1220 SW 1st Avenue: Beautiful Patio, features local ingredients, bar menu until midnight.
- Huber's Café, 411 SW 3rd Avenue: Portland's oldest restaurant (1879) features turkey dinner year around, plus Turkey Piccata, Turkey Pot Pie and Turkey Salad.

- Dragonfish Asian Café, 909 SW Park Avenue: Pan-Asian cuisine featuring small plates to share. Sunday Happy Hour from 3pm to close.
- Violetta, 877 SW Taylor Street (in Director Park): “Slow food, fast” – made-from-scratch soups and burgers, and sweet-potato fries.
- Southpark, 901 SW Morrison: Named for its location (north end of the South Park Blocks), not the TV show. Seafood a specialty.
- Portland City Grill, 111 SW 5th Avenue: One of the best views in the city; Sunday Happy Hour from 4-11pm.
- Shigezo Izakaya, 910 SW Salmon: Japanese pub featuring sake, sushi and hibachi-grilled fish and vegetables.
- The Heathman Restaurant & Bar, 1001 SW Broadway: One of the best examples that hotel restaurants in Portland needn’t be mundane. Northwest ingredients with overtones from Normandy (the chef’s birthplace).
- El Gaucho, 319 SW Broadway: Upscale Northwest steakhouse chain – good place to go if someone else is paying.
- Mother’s Bistro and Bar, 212 SW Stark Street: Comfort food better than your mother made; lines for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, but if you’re on your own, you can often get in at the counter.
- Ristorante Roma, 622 SW 12th Avenue: Trattoria-style Italian restaurant. The chef worked for 17 years in Rome before coming to Portland – don’t expect meatballs on your spaghetti.
- Voodoo Doughnut, SW 3rd Avenue at Ankeny: 24-hour doughnuts, including Bacon Maple Bar, Grape Ape, Memphis Mafia and, of course, the Voodoo Doll.
- Cacao, 414 SW 13th Avenue with a smaller outlet at 712 SW Broadway: As refined as Voodoo is vulgar; generally 3 or 4 varieties of drinking chocolate being served, plus chocolate bars from around the world.

North of Burnside (The Pearl District)

- Silk Vietnamese Restaurant & Bar, 1012 NW Glisan Street: Banh Mi sandwiches during “Silky Hour” (4-7pm except Sunday) are popular.
- Teardrop Cocktail Lounge, 1015 NW Everett Street: While best known for their inventive cocktails, they have a small but interesting selection of appetizers and small plates.
- Andina, 1314 NW Glisan Street: “Novoperuvian” cuisine with special vegetarian and gluten-free menus. Reservations are a good idea on Fridays and weekends.
- Davis Street Tavern, 500 NW Davis Street: Locally grown produce in a roomy reclaimed 1905 building; a good choice for lunch in the Pearl.
- 50 Plates, 333 NW 13th Avenue: Features traditional dishes from all parts of the US.
- Bluehour, 250 SW 13th Avenue: Mediterranean cuisine (mainly Italian and French) with a seasonal menu.
- ¡Oba! Restaurante y Refresqueria de Lujo, 555 NW 12th Avenue: “Pan-Hispanic” cuisine with dishes from the Caribbean and Latin America.
- The Gilt Club, 306 NW Broadway: Featured in the “Colin the Chicken” sketch in the TV series *Portlandia*; “Food your momma can’t cook.”
- Mio Gelato, 25 NW 11th Avenue: Great place to grab Italian gelato or sorbet after visiting Powell’s Books.

NW 21st and 23rd

This area actually outside of the downtown area, but reachable by Streetcar (fare required) and with a high density of restaurants. Some notable establishments: Wildwood (NW cuisine), Paley's Place (James Beard Award), Serratto (upscale Italian), Swagat (Indian), Lucy's Table (NW cuisine), Papa Hadyn (wonderful desserts), New Old Lompoc (funky brewpub), Kornblatt's (NY-style deli), Uptown Billiards (fanciest food you've ever had in a pool hall), RingSide (Portland's venerable steakhouse).