

eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout

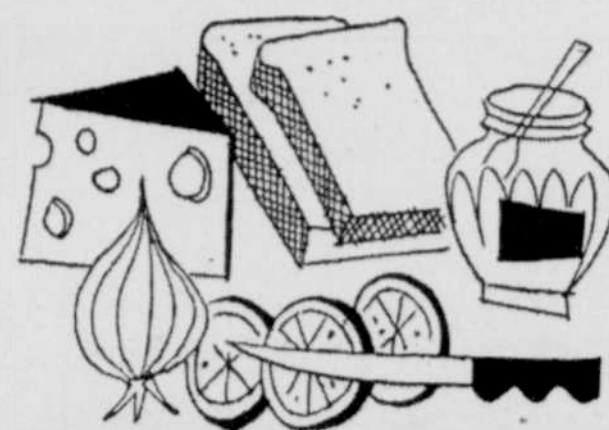
eatingout

TREAT
YOURSELF!

CENTRAL CAFE

RECENTLY VOTED BEST BREAKFAST AND LUNCH IN
EAST COUNTY. SOMEHOW BEING A LITTLE
DIFFERENT JUST WORKS.218 NORTH MAIN AVE., GRESHAM, OR 97030
503-665-5052

M - 6:00 - 3:00 P.M. SUNDAY 8:00 - 2:30 P.M.



epiqueerean

BY MICHAEL E BARRETT

Italians do it better

If you thought Italians were good in the bedroom, wait till you see what they can do in the kitchen.

Il Piatto • 2348 S.E. Ankeny St.

The mother to Sellwood's Sala, Il Piatto ranks high on Portland's long list of Italian restaurants. Even the bread is memorable. Rarely does one enjoy hearty peasant bread with a meal, and at Il Piatto you'll want to forego your oil and vinegar dipping habit for their sun-dried tomato pesto spread. When it comes to veal, Italians really *do* do it better, and Il Piatto sent my taste buds into orbit with their veal Milanese. Laid over thick saffron risotto with a generous drizzle of brown butter and caper sauce, my tummy was so content I couldn't even bear the thought of dessert. White wine drinkers should try the pinot grigio-chardonnay blend, available by the glass or bottle.

Piazza Italia • 1129 N.W. Johnson St.

Piazza Italia is my favorite restaurant for outdoor dining. Nestled in the heart of the Pearl District near Jamison Square, this is the most authentic Italian bistro in Portland. Observing the bantering of the Italians who own it and frequent it is half the fun on what would otherwise be a remarkably quiet urban street. The menu is straightforward and simple, and wines are available by the glass, half-liter and liter. I always come back for the salads. Favorites include the Caprese, a neatly decorated platter of fresh mozzarella, roma tomatoes, basil, pepper and olive oil, and the Bresaola, with its dry cured beef, arugula, lemon-infused olive oil and thin slices of parmesan. If you can stick around for dessert (as I said, this place is *authentic* Italian, so time is relative), finish off with a cappuccino and a slice of almond pear torte.

Fratelli • 1230 N.W. Hoyt St.

If you're one of those connoisseurs who avoids ordering chicken due to boredom, make an exception at Fratelli. The free-range "pollo" comes seared and wrapped in prosciutto with parmesan polenta and mushroom jus. Need I say more? The weekly fish special tasted even more intriguing than it sounded: Alaskan halibut steak in rhubarb sauce. The sweet-sour flavor of simmering rhubarb mingles perfectly with a tender hunk of halibut—a rare treat for fish lovers. (And colorful, too!) The atmosphere can best be described as possessing a rustic candlelit charm that you might expect to find in a Tuscan wine cellar, and I'm pleased to report that Fratelli's pastas are not cooked beyond firmness. Though excellent, some dishes might surprise the saline-challenged tongue, so be sure to ask your server for recommendations if you don't like salt. Servings are generous, service is friendly, and they have a respectable selection of Italian wines.

Violet's Café

5204 NE SACRAMENTO BLVD. PORTLAND,
OREGON 97213SERVING Breakfast and LUNCH
hrs: Thursday - Monday 7am - 2pm
(503) 281-7933

Full menu
Full bar
Live Acoustic Music
Non-Smoking

Enjoy a romantic
and upscale dining
experience.

Available for
Private Parties

Happy Hour/Late Night Food Specials
all under \$3.50

1222 SW SALMON 503-227-1655
www.zebaportland.com

Genies
cafeBreakfast - Lunch - Brunch
Free Range and OrganicOpen Daily 8 am - 4 pm
1101 SE Division
Portland, Oregon
503 445-9777

Serving Stumptown Coffee!

Brought to you by the owners of Shanghai
Tunnel, Bar of the Gods and Tiny's Coffee

Breakfast with Cocktails!

table

Will be featuring
for the month of MayErrazuriz Reserve
Syrah 1999For every glass sold,
\$3.00 will be donated to
Our House of Portland!open 7 nights a week
Friday, Saturday late
NE 28th & Davis
503-238-3777reservations for 6 or more
private dining room available

Our
house
of Portland
Caring for
People With AIDS
www.ourhouseofportland.org

VITA
Cafe
modern mealsOUR DECK
IS
NOW OPEN!

- Kids eat for \$1 (between 5-7 PM)
- New seasonal menu
- Mostly vegetarian options

3024 ne alberta
portland or 97211
503.335.8233