



Lettuce Leaf in Peas

Whether it's backlash from the Atkins Diet or concern for our carbon footprint, veganism is thriving in the Portland area these days. Fortunately, our climate produces some of the country's most diverse year-round food crops, so below you will find three places to suit your every animal-free craving.

Bye and Bye • 1011 N.E. Alberta St.

Developed from the ground up by the owners (there are six of 'em), this chic new installment is a welcome oasis among the meat- and cheese-free bars that dot Portland's scene. Although the space is somewhat empty, the walls are nicely decorated with gloriously funky art and the menu is spotted with some promise. The biggest winner by a long shot is the vegan meatball sandwich. I opted for brussels sprouts to accompany my extremely hearty portion of homemade faux-balls crammed deep into a warm, crusty torpedo roll. The specialty drinks are fair and the brew choices are somewhat limited, but for those looking for an alternative to smokier, fauna-filled caverns, Bye and Bye fits the bill.

Dove Vivi • 2727 N.E. Glisan St.

This small spot, which shares a wall with a Laundromat and a street with Pambiche, is like a diamond in the rough. Little-known microbrews and finely chosen wines tease the appetite as the wood-fire oven tempts cornmeal-crust pizzas from its hearth. Choose from a multitude of fine combinations from caramelized onion and gorgonzola to homemade sausage and broccoli rabe. Prepare to be confounded with options, but those with indecisive inclinations (such as myself) should have no fear: Some pies can be made by the slice or by the half-pie. The gripper here is the absolutely stellar vegan pizza made with an herbed "ricotta" that has the creaminess and flavor as good as or better than any pizza cheese. The semi-deep dish is loaded with flavorful veggies, garlic and herbs, but it is the buttery, flaky, wholesome cornmeal crust that makes DV's rounds stand apart from other pizzerias around.

Proper Eats • 8638 N. Lombard St.

This grocery store-cum-cafe has made quite a name for itself selling, serving and promoting local and organic produce. Although small, the menu features everything from hearty quinoa and tempeh burritos and soba noodles to exquisitely fresh salads. For those connected to the raw/live food movements, the menu and the folks behind the counter are more than helpful. But for those who just want some good vegan grub, it's the homemade dips and spreads (the hazelnut pesto with sprouted crackers is a must) that will have you speeding down to the historic St. John's area to get your flora-fix. 10

JENNY NGUYEN is discovering her inner vegan. Help keep her a carnivore by sending meaty morsels of bloody comments to epiqueerean@comcast.net.

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