

DOWNTOWN FAVORITES

by Joe McHenry

Portland, Oregon is not a city known for its haute cuisine, however, there are some very delightful and enjoyable restaurants to visit. All of these establishments are within walking distance or a ten minute bus ride from the Hilton Hotel.

The prices range from very expensive to moderate with a few inexpensive places listed after my ten favorites. The list of restaurants is by no means complete, but it is extensive enough to allow for good selection in taste and pocketbook.

The restaurants are rated on service and food — four stars excellent, three stars above average, two stars average, one star below average, no star simply means no comment is necessary or that the service or food was so poor I personally would not return for more of the same.

The list following my ten favorites are worth checking on also, those that are marked with a star are very good and should be visited if at all possible. The others are for change of pace or for those experimenting moods that overcome us all.

The ten are in alphabetical order and no comparison was intended between them.

Have fun, I hope this little guide helps sort out a few places to enjoy a good meal or a sip of wine without the agonizing study of the telephone books extensive listing.

COUCH STREET FISH HOUSE

Couch Street Fish House, 105 N.W. 3rd Avenue, phone 223-6173. Dinner 5:00-11:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sunday. Reservations advised, American Express, Master Charge, Visa — expensive. Food *** — Service ***.

A favorite for those who enjoy elegance, with flair and overly pretentious service as accouterments to their meal.

The Couch Street Fish House in a word is "GRAND". The food is well prepared but not simple, continental but not French, excellent but not superb.

In a city noted for quantity not quality of restaurants we could rate this restaurant in the top twenty. It's a place where one may linger and enjoy the trappings of success that surround you, or where you can relax and enjoy a good meal prepared in the style many people daydream of having or believe the rich have. The menu is impressive in its breadth of selection. Dover Sole and Turbot from England, Mahi Mahi from Hawaii, Scampi from the Mediterranean, Salmon from the Pacific Northwest, and other delights from New England to Australia. A live tank holding trout and lobster enhance the image of opulence and of course increase the price, however, what would trout au bleu be without a live trout.

All entrees are a la carte. With prices ranging from \$1.85 for clam chowder to \$8.50 for trout au bleu, as an average. So a bill may run as high as the wine and wallet will allow. Rate the Service three stars and the Food two.

JAZZ DE OPUS

Jazz de Opus is a tavern. Now, that seems inappropriate being listed with restaurants of such high callings but de Opus holds its own as a cool oasis in a dying desert.

If what you need is a place to let your heart slow



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