Madison Restaurant Guide

Good Dinner Choices (* favorites)
Many of these restaurants are in easy walking distance from Monona Terrace and on or near the Capitol Square area.

43 North
108 King Street
http://www.43north.biz
Located a block from the Capitol and only a short walk from the Monona Terrace, this modern bistro serves contemporary American cuisine. Winner of the 2012 OpenTable.com Diners’ Choice Award.

Blue Marlin
101 N. Hamilton Street
http://www.thebluemarlin.net
Specializes in fish and seafood. Reservations taken.

*Harvest
21 N. Pinckney Street
http://www.harvest-restaurant.com
Named by Organic Style magazine as one of the top 20 restaurants in America, and most recently named one of America's top Farm-to-Table restaurants by Gourmet Magazine, Harvest’s chefs are dedicated to providing diners with the freshest ingredients available each season. The menu evolves according to the locality and seasonality of the products. Reservations are not required but are appreciated.

*L’Etoile
1 S. Pinckney Street
http://www.letoile-restaurant.com
Combining local produce with traditional cooking methods, the menu at L’Etoile changes with each season but the emphasis on “old world” techniques and modern American cuisine remains constant. The menu also includes a large selection of artisan cheeses and wines. Included in Gourmet Magazine’s top 100 American restaurants. Great place for foodies. Reservations required.

*Sardine
617 Williamson Street
http://www.sardinemadison.com
Modern bistro style French cuisine on the shores of Lake Monona. Although primarily known for its decadent dinners, Sardine also serves brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 2:30pm. Huge space where it is often possible to get a table, even on busy nights. They do take reservations.
*Chautara*
334 State St
Features Himalayan and Nepalese food, with some Indian dishes. Menu includes many vegetarian options. The ambiance downstairs is not fancy; upstairs is quieter and nicer. The food is excellent quality with very reasonable prices.

Eldorado Grill
744 Williamson Street
http://www.eldoradogrillmadison.com
The menu features an eclectic combination of Southwestern, Southern, and Interior Mexican cuisine with an upscale twist. The restaurant interior is an old candy factory that has been transformed into a Western atmosphere, lending itself to incredible food and some of the best margaritas in town. Dinner is served from 5pm-10pm Friday and Saturday. Voted best brunch in Madison. Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday from 9am-2pm. A longer walk (or short drive) from Monona Terrace.

Francesca’s al Lago
111 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
http://www.miafrancesca.com/
Francesca’s features the zesty, earthy cuisine of Rome and the surrounding areas of Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio. An expansive wine list, local beers and handcrafted martinis are the perfect accompaniment to an outstanding dining experience.

Fresco Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge
227 State Street
http://www.frescomadison.com/
Located on the roof of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Fresco offers beautiful views of downtown Madison as well as a menu of modern American cuisine featuring locally grown seasonal produce. The menu also features gluten-free and vegetarian options.

Graze
1 S. Pinckney Street
http://www.grazemadison.com/
Inspired by New York City gastropubs, Graze’s menu features classic dishes with a contemporary and gourmet twist. The name of the restaurant reflects the chef and owner’s dedication to free-range and sustainable farming techniques.

Kennedy Manor
1 Langdon Street
http://kennedymanordining.com/
Located on the lower level of the historic Kennedy Manor Apartments and Hotel building, the restaurant has been a downtown fixture since opening in 1931. The dining room is decorated in an Art Deco style with twelve-foot ceilings and a row of ground
As you enter the establishment, you may think you are stepping into a restaurant reminiscent of a 1940's New York or Paris bistro.

*Merchant*
121 S. Pinckney St
Inspired by the American Craft Movement, Merchant features Old-and-New American food and drink that is hand-crafted, comforting, and delicious. The menu changes frequently due to its focus on local and seasonal ingredients. Brunch is also served on Saturday mornings during the Farmer’s Market from 9am-3pm. Very short walk from Monona Terrace. Reservations accepted.

*Nostrano*
111 S Hamilton St
A very interesting and eclectic menu that relies on local ingredients. In addition to meat and fish, there are vegetarian options. Another good choice for foodies. Reservations recommended.

Opus Lounge
116 King St # 1
Madison’s premiere cocktail lounge with a large selection of champagne cocktails and tapas.

Osteria Papavero
128 E. Wilson St.
Authentic Italian food with a menu that changes every day, a full bar, and delicious chocolates for dessert. The menu has vegetarian options but is meat-heavy overall. A half block from the Monona Terrace Convention Center and Hilton Hotel. Does not take reservations.

Tempest Oyster Bar
120 E. Wilson Street
Great oysters, and much more too, including lots of different kinds of fish and steaks. Upscale atmosphere and fine quality ingredients. Very close to the Monona Terrace.

Tornado Steak House
116 South Hamilton St.
Madison’s premier downtown steak house and supper club, the Tornado Room’s specialties include award-winning steaks, pork, duck, rabbit, lamb, seafood and fish specials. This is a classic old Midwestern steak house—and feels a little like a time warp. Dinner is served from 5pm to 10pm daily and a late night menu is available from 10pm to 1am.
The Icon Restaurant and Tapas Bar
206 State Street
http://theiconmadison.com/
Located a block from the Capitol and across from the Overture Center for the Arts on State Street, The Icon features a long list of wines, signature martinis, and small plates. Vegetarian options are available. The kitchen is open from 4pm to 12am Thursday-Saturday.

Inexpensive Lunch or Dinner

8 Seasons Grille
45 S. Bassett St.
http://www.8seasonsgrille.com/

Amy’s Café
414 W. Gilman Street
http://www.amyscafe.com/
Amy’s Café serves a wide variety of salads, sandwiches, salads, wraps, pitas, and a large selection of beers at affordable grad student-friendly prices. Just off State Street, closer to the UW campus than the Capitol Square—probably a 20 minute walk.

*Bandung
600 Williamson St.
http://www.bandungrestaurant.com/
Bandung serves traditional food from various regions of Indonesia as well as original and creative fusion entrees. Most dishes are made to order and can accommodate any dietary restrictions or allergies. Lunch is available Monday-Friday 11am-2pm and dinner is served from 5pm-10pm. The décor is not fancy, but the food is spectacularly delicious. Bandung is a favorite for one of our conference organizers!

The Bayou
117 S. Butler Street
http://www.thebayoumadison.com/
Nicknamed Madison’s “Little New Orleans,” The Bayou was named the best new restaurant by the Taste of Madison for its famous crawfish boil and jambalaya. It also features one of the only true raw bars in the city.

Brocach Irish Pub
7 W. Main
http://www.brocach.com/home.html
Brocach features lunch, dinner and late night menus including Irish specialties well as fine contemporary cuisine and daily lunch and dinner specials. In addition to outstanding food, expect to find great imported beer, including the best pint of Guinness west of Galway, unusual Irish and Scotch whiskeys and regular Irish music sessions.
Buraka
543 State Street
http://www.burakamadison.com/Buraka_Madison.html
Buraka originated in Madison in 1992 as a popular food cart at the UW's library mall and later into a full service restaurant located off the Capitol Square. In April of 2000, Buraka moved to its State Street location. Menu consists of Ethiopian and other East African dishes (mild to spicy) with a variety of meat, vegetarian and vegan options.

Cooper’s Tavern
20 West Mifflin Street
http://www.thecooperstavern.com/
Named “Best New Restaurant” of 2011 by readers of Madison Magazine, this cozy neighborhood pub is located on Capitol Square and features rustic dishes inspired by the owners’ travels throughout Europe. Cooper’s serves a large selection of craft beers, Belgian ales, scotch, and port.

Dayton Street Grille
1 West Dayton Street
http://daytonstreetgrille.com/
The Dayton Street Grille serves contemporary American meals made with fresh, organic, and local ingredients from Wisconsin. Gluten-free and vegetarian options are available.

Dotty Dumpling’s Dowry
317 N Frances Street
http://www.dottydumplingsdowry.com/
Named best in the Big Ten by USA Today, Dotty’s menu features a variety of all-beef burgers, veggie and vegan burgers, sandwiches, and delicious deep-fried appetizers.

*Fugu Asian Fusion
411 W. Gilman Street
http://www.fuguasian.com
A relative newcomer to Madison, Fugu is the best Chinese restaurant in town. It has an authentic Szechuan menu and many other dishes. It helps to speak Chinese, but those of us who don’t have had truly wonderful meals here.

*Himal Chuli (first/oldest Nepali restaurant in the US)
318 State St
A sibling to Chautara, and just a few doors away, this tiny restaurant (with outdoor seating in nice weather) has a startlingly large list of vegetarian items (much longer than the non-veg section). A great place for lunch or a quick dinner, this place is a favorite with one of our organizers who recommends Momocha and Khichadi. Good for a modest budget. Credit cards not accepted.
Husnus’s Turkish Restaurant
547 State Street
http://www.husnus.com/
Located in the heart of State Street since 1979, Husnu’s is the first Madison, Wisconsin restaurant to offer authentic Turkish cuisine while continuing the Turkish culinary practice of creative innovation within a tradition. The menu offers a diversity of dishes reflecting the rich multiplicity of cultures that have flourished along the silk route from Central Asia to the Mediterranean.

Ian’s Pizza
100 State St.
http://www.ianspizza.com/
Ian’s serves New York style pizza with unique toppings (one of Ian’s most popular pies is the mac n’ cheese pizza) by the slice or the pie. Ian’s reached international fame during the Madison Protests of 2011 when they set up a donation page for donors to send hungry protesters meals at the Capitol. Donors called in from 10 countries, including South Korea, Egypt and Denmark, as well as from 43 states. Open 11am-2:30am Tuesday-Sunday.

Kabul
541 State Street
http://www.kabulmadison.com/
Perennial winner of the Best of Madison’s “Best Middle Eastern Restaurant,” Kabul’s menu features authentic Afghan and Mediterranean cuisine.

Mediterranean Café
625 State St
Not only is it known for its delicious hummus and shawarma plates, but also for its fast and friendly service and affordable prices. Open for lunch 10am-4pm Monday through Saturday. Credit cards are not accepted.

Muramoto
225 King Street
http://www.restaurantmuramoto.com/
Small plate Asian fusion with a modern twist. Menu features a large variety of sushi. Open for lunch from 11:30am to 3:00pm and dinner until 10:00pm.

The Great Dane
123 East Doty Street
http://downtown.greatdanepub.com/
One of the most popular breweries in Madison, The Great Dane serves a wide variety of traditional pub fare with a Midwestern twist. Along with a long list of hand-crafted beers, The Great Dane features an arboreal beer garden that has garnered annual awards for best
outdoor dining in Madison as well as a large bar area complete with pool tables and shuffle boards.

The Old Fashioned
23 N. Pinckney St.
http://www.theoldfashioned.com/
Inspired by the traditions of Wisconsin taverns and supper clubs, The Old Fashioned exists to pay tribute to the foods and spirits that make the state famous. The menu includes a variety of cheese boards, brats, burgers, and, of course, deep-fried cheese curds.

Red Sushi
106 King Street
http://www.redsushi.net/

Cafes, Breakfasts

Barriques
127 West Washington Ave.
http://www.barriquesmarket.com/
A full service coffee and espresso bar that also features a wide selection of wines and spirits. Pastries, breakfast wraps, sandwiches, and salads are available for breakfast and lunch. For evening enjoyment, Barriques serves several tap beers, and wines by the glass or bottle. Plus you can pick up a bottle of your favorite wine from the infamous Wall of 100. Free wireless internet access is available. Open Th-Fri: 6am – 11pm, Sat: 6:30am – 11pm, Sun: 7am – 9pm

Bradbury’s
127 N. Hamilton
http://www.bradburyscoffee.com/
Bradbury’s offers a rotating menu of crepes (based on the Wisconsin growing season), scones, and muffins made every morning in-house. Excellent espresso served here. Open Mon-Fri 6:30 am - 6:30 pm, Sat-Sun 6:30 am - 5:30 pm.

Café Costa Rica
141 S. Butler Street
http://mangomancooks.com/

Dobra Tea Room
449 State Street
http://www.dobratea.com/
Traveling to tea growing countries annually, the owners of the Dobra Tea Room have gone to great distances to source all of the teas they serve directly from their regions of
origin. The tea menu is arranged by country, and each tea tells its own story based on the owners’ travels and experience with each variety. Open daily from 11am to 11 pm.

**Fair Trade Coffee House**
418 State Street
Fair Trade Coffeehouse is an independently owned coffee house serving *Fair Trade* certified coffee, espresso drinks, panini sandwiches and homemade desserts. Handpicked by their roaster, *Equal Exchange*, Fair Trade Coffeehouse is one of ten shops around the country participating in their *61 Beans* program, giving them exclusive access to small-batch coffees from around the world.

**Gotham New York Bagels & Eats**
112 East Mifflin Street
A taste of New York City in Wisconsin, Gotham’s menu includes hand-rolled bagels, lox, pastrami, inspired sandwiches, artisanal cream cheese, and fair trade coffee. The perfect spot for a quick and delicious breakfast or lunch. Open Monday through Saturday 7am - 3pm and Sunday 8am - 2pm.

*Marigold Kitchen*
118 South Pinckney Street
Marigold Kitchen offers a wide variety of quiches, omelettes, pancakes, and pastries for breakfast and brunch as well as delicious and healthy salads, soups, and sandwiches for lunch. Open for breakfast and lunch during the week and on Saturday from 7am - 2pm and Sunday from 8am - 2pm. A very short walk from Monona Terrace and the conference hotels.

**Steep and Brew Café**
544 State Street
Steep & Brew offers more than two dozen coffees by the cup, and over three-dozen teas, as well as fresh pastries, fancy oatmeals, and waffles. Open Friday 7am - 11 pm, Saturday 8am-11pm, and Sunday 9am-10pm.

**Sunprint Café**
1 South Pinckney Street
Sunprint Café features fresh baked pastries made from scratch daily, delicious food made to order for both breakfast and lunch, and locally supplied foods. Open Monday through Saturday 7am to 2pm.

**Sunroom Café**
638 State Street
The Sunroom Café serves fresh baked pastries, fair trade coffee, and farm fresh egg dishes for breakfast. Lunch highlights include creative salads, sandwiches, soups & pastas. Dinner features an array of international classics. Vegetarian and vegan choices abound. Open Thursday 7am-9:30pm, Friday and Saturday 7am-10pm, and Sunday 9am-9pm.

*Dane County Farmers’ Market
Around the Capitol Square, on Saturdays, 6am-2pm
http://dcfm.org/
The largest producer-only farmers’ market in the US, this Saturday market on the Capitol Square includes over 160 vendors who sell local produce, including canned fruits and preserves and artisanal cheeses, and an amazing array of bakery items and speciality products. If you’re not attending a NAVSA seminar on Saturday morning, be sure to take a stroll around the Farmers’ Market. Even if you are in a seminar, you can beat the crowds because the market opens at 6am.