

# Shannon's Restaurant Guide (Local)

*With so many restaurants in LA, there is no reason to go back to a mediocre one. The list of restaurants I've been to is long, but the list I've been to more than once is incredibly short.*

*These places are worthy of a visit while you're here for IGARSS 2023.*

*I've kept the list local, but if you want recommendations for greater LA, find me during the week.*



## **Best Italian**

### **UNION RESTAURANT**

37 Union St, Pasadena, CA 91103

<https://unionpasadena.com/>

*Started by Bruce Kalman, hands down best Italian in Pasadena and maybe even in greater LA. Try the Torchetti.*

## **Best Raw Bar and Seafood**

### **FISHWIVES**

88 N Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103

<https://www.fishwives.com/>

*Go for the oysters and a glass of Muscadet*

## **Best Sushi**

### **Yui**

24 W Sierra Madre Blvd Unit A, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

<https://www.yuirestaurant.com/>

*A little farther away, but best sushi chef in the area. Book a spot at the sushi bar, only 6 seats though.*

## **Best Burrito**

### **BURRITO EXPRESS**

1597 E Washington Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91104

<https://burritoexpresspasadena.com/>

*It begins and ends here with the Ross Perot burrito, "its full of it".*

### **LUCKY BOY**

640 S Arroyo Pkwy, Pasadena, CA 91105

<http://luckyboyburgers.com/menu/>

*Make a trip for the famous breakfast burrito*

## **Best Sandwich**

### **ROMA MARKET**

918 N Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104

<https://www.yelp.com/biz/roma-market-pasadena>

*Known only as "The Sandwich", it started out humbly to feed a hungry salesman in the store. Now they sell nearly 1000 per day. Say hi to the 84-year old owner Rosario Mazzeo who hasn't missed a day of work in 70 years.*

## **Best Neighborhood Standby**

### **LA GRANDE ORANGE**

260 S Raymond Ave, Pasadena, CA 91105

<https://lgostationcafe.com/>

*Can't go wrong with anything here, but if you're in the know, you're probably getting short rib tacos or "the misfit"*

## **Best Pizza**

### **786° SAPORI**

1709 E Washington Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91104

<https://786degrees.com/>

*This pizza chef is a creative genius, the Istanbul and Bombay Tikka Masala will leave you wanting more*

### **THE LUGGAGE ROOM**

260 S Raymond Ave, Pasadena, CA 91105

<https://lgostationcafe.com/>

*Part of La Grande Orange, the sourdough crust is what makes their pizza so special. If you like salted and cured meats, try the Gladiator.*

## **Best Coffee**

### **JONES COFFEE ROASTERS**

693 S Raymond Ave, Pasadena, CA 91105

<https://www.jonescoffee.roasters.com/>

*A nice place to catch up on some work and they roast everything they sell. You may even catch a jazz band in the parking lot.*

## **Best Hot Chicken**

### **HOWLIN' RAYS**

800 S Arroyo Pkwy, Pasadena, CA 91105

<https://howlinrays.com/>

*Nashville Hot Chicken is having a moment in the US right now. The Sando put them on the map, but be prepared to wait in line. They are not joking with their spice levels, stick to hot or lower if you are a novice, go full Howlin' if you can handle heat.*

## **Best Mexican**

### **MAESTRO RESTAURANT**

110 Union St, Pasadena, CA 91103

<https://www.maestropasadena.com/>

*A restaurant that would be just as home in Mexico City as Pasadena. Start with Watermelon Margarita and don't pass up the mole.*

## **Best Ice Cream**

### **BLOOMFIELD CREAMERY**

1727 E Washington Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91104

<https://www.bloomfieldcreamery.com/>

*Started by a couple from Michigan, try one of the regional Midwest classic flavors. If you're feeling indulgent, get a 50/50, which is half ice cream and half edible cookie dough. Come here after pizza at Sapori.*

### **CARMELA**

2495 E Washington Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91104

<https://carmelaicecream.com/>

*Look for the freezer case inside to the left and pick up a strawberry buttermilk ice cream sandwich*

## **Best Kept Secret**

### **ALTA EATS**

1860 Allen Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104

<https://altaeats.com/>

*This chef is so good, the place doesn't even need a sign (seriously, there is no sign). The bread and butter here will change your out-look on life.*

## **Best California Farm-to-Table**

### **AGNES**

40 W Green St, Pasadena, CA 91105

<https://www.agnesla.com/>

*The cocktails are just as good as the food here. Get the "Radiators in Red Sauce", don't worry, you'll figure out what radiators are once you start eating them.*

## **Best Place to have a Martini at Lunch**

### **HOUSTON'S**

320 S Arroyo Pkwy, Pasadena, CA 91105

<https://www.houstons.com/locations/pasadena/>

*The wood fired grill is what they are known for, but don't shy away from their sushi offerings. I don't normally eat sushi at a steakhouse, but I will here.*

## **Best Place to Eat and Drink Al Fresco**

### **THE RAYMOND**

1250 S Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena, CA 91105

<https://www.theraymond.com/>

*In an old staff quarters for The Raymond Hotel, the food and drink here do not disappoint. Get a table on their serene patio*

## **Best Breakfast**

### **RUSSELL'S**

30 N Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103

<https://www.yelp.com/biz/russells-pasadena-2>

*Known for breakfast and burgers, why not get both, try the hamburger and eggs*

## **Best Nepalese**

### **TIBET NEPAL HOUSE**

36 E Holly St #3905, Pasadena, CA 91124

<https://www.tibetnepalhouse.com/>

*If you have a craving for yak or momo, this is the place to go.*

## **Best Ramen**

### **RAMEN TATSUNOYA**

16 N Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103

<https://www.tatsunoyausa.net/>

*You don't have to go all the way to Torrance CA to get some great ramen. Their simple menu will satisfy your noodle craving.*

## **Best Chinese Food**

### **ANYWHERE IN SAN GABRIEL VALLEY**

Alhambra, San Gabriel, Temple City, Monterey Park

*You don't need me here, just go to the SGV and pick any place with a line*

## **Best Cheeseburger**

### **PIE AND BURGER**

<http://www.pienburger.com/>

*The cheeseburger was invented in Pasadena in 1924, and the legend says this was the place. If you were told try to In-n-out burger, try the original instead. Save room for pie!*

### **JAKES'S**

<https://www.jakestrustworthyburgers.com/>

*Once a pool hall and smash burger joint, it closed during the pandemic. But luckily for us, the burger half the of venture re-opened. Have a classic diner experience in this small nook in Old Town Pasadena.*

### **THE GEORGE**

<https://thegeorgepasadena.com/>

*This neighborhood joint serves the best under-the-radar burger in the area. Candied bacon is the star of the show.*

## **Best Place to Be a Tourist in Pasadena**

### **THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY**

2 W Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91101

<https://www.thecheesecakefactory.com>

*I'm not actually recommending this place, but it is one of the most popular restaurants in Pasadena, especially with tourists.*