

BURGERS OF SACRAMENTO



Craving a Burger?

Sacramento is a first-rate burger town. Whatever style of burger you're in the mood for: pub, artisanal or fast-food style, we have them here. Try any of these places and you'll find a fine burger:

Rubicon Brewing Company: Dig into the Midtown Mess Burger covered with chili, Cheddar, onions and chopped tomatoes.

Suzie Burger: Served in a stylish, back to the fifties setting—the Suzie Burger has lots of flavor with its special Suzie sauce and side of pickles and carrots.

Lucca Restaurant & Bar: The beef for the Lucky Dog Ranch Beef hamburger was raised on the restaurant owners' ranch. This straight-ahead burger is served on a bun with tomato slices, lettuce, onion and pickle and a cone of fries.

Ten 22: Check out the juicy Hearty Burger: 8-ounces of Niman Ranch beef with pepper jack, smoked bacon and caramelized onions. Have plenty of napkins ready.

Squeeze Inn: A generous handful of shredded cheese, followed by the steaming of the burger under a dome, creates a gooey and moist burger with a crisp "skirt" of molten cheese.

Tapa the World: Try the large Tapa Burger served on an onion roll with caramelized onions, Manchego cheese and garlic aioli.

de Vere's Irish Pub: Swing by for a thick juicy burger made from house-ground chuck served with excellent fries.

Ettore's European Bakery and Restaurant: The bakery here makes the burger's bun with Cheddar and scallions. The Niman Ranch beef burger comes with sautéed mushrooms, Swiss cheese, herbed mayo and a side of pasta.



OneSpeed's Pizza

relax and enjoy

SACRAMENTO'S FRESH AND CASUAL CULINARY SCENE

Explore the River City and discover the side of the Sacramento restaurant scene that is casual, comfortable, and cozy. Here you'll find small plates, large plates, sandwiches, salads, burgers, and pizzas. A growing number of these restaurants are preparing their food with fresh and local ingredients. This should come as no surprise. Sacramento restaurants don't have to go far to find fresh food, since the city is located in the heart of California's Central Valley—an agricultural area so productive, it supplies a quarter of the food America eats.

BY MARGARET MEAGHER

POPULAR POLITICAL HANG-OUTS

Big political deals have gone down in the back booths of Frank Fat's (806 L St.; www.fatsbistro.com; 916-442-7092) for decades. Established in 1939 by a hardworking Chinese immigrant in an old speakeasy near the State Capitol, this restaurant still draws in legislators and other political movers and shakers. Elegant Asian dishes include the plump pot stickers, garlic Korean short ribs, and honey walnut prawns. Save room for the legendary banana cream pie with its crispy crust, fresh bananas and generous custard filling.

Lucca Restaurant & Bar (1615 J St.; www.lucca-restaurant.com; 916-669-5300) is frequented by the Capitol crowd. The governor is a regular here and has

a salad special named for him. The flavorful beef—grass-fed and from the owners' own Lucky Dog Ranch—stars in the steaks, short ribs and burger.

NEW AMERICAN CUISINE

Swing by **OneSpeed** (4818 Folsom Blvd.; www.onespeedpizza.com; 916-706-1748) where quality food meets with a casual neighborhood feel. In this bicycle-themed restaurant, chewy thin-crust pizzas are fired up in the brightly-tiled wood-burning oven. There's the house-made Italian sausage pizza—covered with mozzarella, sautéed onions and sweet peppers—and Rick's pizza with potato slices, caramelized onions, applewood bacon, oregonzola and arugula. OneSpeed also offers earthy small and large plates and salads that feature local produce.



Tapa the World



Bistro 33 Midtown



OneSpeed



Guitar Player at Tapa the World

Old Sacramento offers up a new restaurant with a sleek look and a modern twist on American favorites—**Ten 22** (1022 Second St.; www.ten22oldsac.com; 916-441-2211). Nibble on the Dungeness crab tater tots or creamy mac and cheese with pancetta. The campfire classic—s'mores—are re-invented here with chocolate peanut butter cups.

Modern, with an urban vibe, the **Bistro 33 Midtown** (1020 16th St.; www.bistro33.com; 916-233-3633), offers a late night kitchen. Try the sweet potato fries with house made peach ketchup or the oven-dried tomato and shrimp ravioli.

AMERICAN CULINARY TRADITIONS

Soul food and fall-of-the-bone barbecue can be found at **Sandra Dee's Barbecue & Seafood** (601 15th St.; www.sandradeesbbq.com; 916-448-6375). Choose from links, tri-tip, ribs or chicken. All are slow cooked with lots of smoke and served with thick, sweet sauce.

Drop by the lively brew pub, **Rubicon Brewing Company** (2004 Capitol Ave.; www.rubiconbrewing.com; 916-448-7032), for first rate beer and the perfect food to accompany it. There's a selection of burgers, along with salty waffle-cut fries, finger-licking chicken wings, and the generous Rubicobb salad.

The Squeeze Inn (5301 Power Inn Rd.; www.thesqueezeinn.com; 916-386-8599) burger—the Squeeze with Cheese—was described on Food Network's *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* as "off-the-hook". The reason for that has to be the incredible "skirt" of crispy Cheddar that fans out around the burger.

You'll travel back in time at **Suzie Burger** (2820 P St.; www.suzieburger.com; 916-455-3500). The 1950's beckon at this former gas station converted into a Jetson's-style hamburger hang-out. Try the double deluxe cheeseburger with special sauce, the very crispy, batter-dipped onion rings and for dessert: a soft serve cone dipped in chocolate.

GLOBAL FUSION

Taste your way around the world, at the eclectic and art-filled **Tower Café** (1518 Broadway; www.towercafe.com; 916-441-0222). Kick off your day with blueberry cornmeal pancakes or custard-dipped French toast and some strong coffee.

Globe-hop with the Brazilian chicken salad with mango and black beans, avocado and papaya or Jamaican jerk chicken. Indulge in the desserts that the Tower Café is famous for, including the classic apple pie with Granny Smith apples and a pecan and brown sugar crumble.

Kasbah Lounge (2115 J St.; www.kasbahlounge.com; 916-442-4388) and **Tapa the World** (2115 J St.; www.tapathe-world.com; 916-442-4353) are next door to each other and run by the same brother and sister team. Relax at Kasbah with its cozy nooks, plush pillows and Middle Eastern cuisine. Try the signature small plate: Majool dates stuffed with blue cheese and Spanish chorizo fried in a lemon batter. At Tapa the World, small plate offerings include tortilla Española (a potato cake with onion and egg) and the gambas al Ajillo (shrimp sautéed with garlic, white wine, and chili flakes). Don't miss the fruit empanada with vanilla ice cream for dessert.

Stop by **DeVere's Irish Pub** (1521 L St.; deverespub.com or 916-231-9947) to warm yourself by the cozy fire and enjoy traditional dishes—shepherd pie, Irish stew, fish and chips and bangers and mash—and, of course, a pint of thick, brown Guinness.

Gorgeous pastries from a Swiss-born baker make **Ettore's European Bakery & Restaurant** (2376 Fair Oaks Blvd.; ettores.com or 916-482-0708) the place to indulge in dessert. Try a fresh fruit tart, an éclair or a chocolate chip cookie.