



Dust off your top hat and tails for a culinary tryst

So the ol' parental units are coming to town! Midterms are finally outta the way, and you have nothing in the fridge but a few bottles o' beer (if you're lucky) and two-month old lettuce for the salads you were SUPPOSED to eat this semester. When Ward and June (or Dan and Roseanne in my family) get here, hit 'em up for some REAL food. I'm talking food that is so real you're even supposed to dress up to eat it! So put away your old jeans and t-shirts and follow me to these real fine food restaurants.

Aurora Restaurant, located in historic Carr Mill Mall, specializes in Northern Italian dishes. The menu changes daily, and reservations are recommended. Try the hand-rolled pasta, seafood or veal. The pasta dishes are priced from \$6 to \$16. Aurora is open for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and nightly for dinner 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Mobile Travel Guide gives Aurora three stars. Wayne and Garth agree: Aurora rocks!

At **Pyewacket**, you can sit at the bar and chill out to live jazz music while staring at the lovely courtyard. And, oh, they have food. Pyewacket serves a variety of fresh seafood, vegetarian and pasta dishes, or you can try the famous spanakapita. Reservations are recommended for this cozy restaurant on 431 W. Franklin St. Entrees go for around \$8 to \$15. There's free parking at Pyewacket, and parking of any kind in Chapel Hill is a must-see in itself. Pyewacket is open for lunch 11:30 to 2:30 Monday through Saturday and for dinner 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday

KRISTI TURNBAUGH

through Thursday, until 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and they close at 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

Halina's Restaurant, in the shopping center across from Tarheel Textbooks, serves Polish food, including pierogies, or Polish ravioli, kielbasa (sausage) and more. Lunch runs \$4 to \$6, and dinner is \$7.25 to \$13, with \$9.50 for the sampler. Halina's is open Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays it's open until 1 a.m. They work extra hard on Saturdays, open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Slug's at The Pines is a must for all Chapel Hillians. Featuring changing specials, Slug's is famous for the prime rib. Another favorite is the dill mahi florentine filet seasoned with vinaigrette. Prices range from \$14 to \$18. Reservations are recommended for this upscale yet casual restaurant and bar. Slug's is open nightly from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 10:30 p.m. on weekends.

Marco Polo boasts Italian, Chinese and Indian cuisine for those of you who can't decide what you want. Possessing an elegant yet relaxed atmosphere, the restaurant serves seafood, duck and has both an Italian lunch buffet and a prime rib lunch buffet. Marco Polo is open from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for lunch Saturday through Friday. The restaurant is open from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Dinners run from \$9 to \$12. Marco Polo is located at 1813 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd.

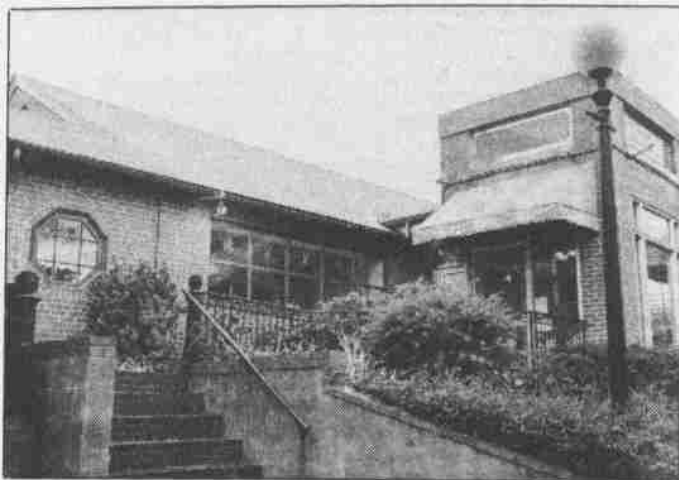
If yer folks don't mind driving a few miles to Pittsboro, **Fearrington Market and Cafe** is the place to go for homemade entrees served in a cozy cafe atmosphere. There's even an espresso bar. The cafe is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and dinner is served from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fearrington Market and Cafe is at 2000 Fearrington Village Center in Pittsboro.

Where Elliot Road meets 15-501 bypass is **Squid's**, a seafood market, oyster bar and restaurant all in one. Squid's serves the freshest seafood from around the world daily. You can get your order mesquite-grilled, broiled, sauteed or blackened. Reservations are not necessary. Lunch is served Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and dinner is served until 10 p.m.

Cracovia European Restaurant offers French, German, Polish and Scandinavian cuisine prepared by real, live European chefs. Boasting a romantic atmosphere and a menu that changes daily, Cracovia serves European wines and cognacs. Popular dishes include the weinerschnitzel and lamb. The restaurant is open nightly for dinner from 6 p.m. until the last customer leaves. Reservations are recommended. Cracovia is at 220 W. Rosemary St.

Set in an old house on 202 W. Rosemary St., **La Residence** offers both a casual cafe and a more formal restaurant. The cafe features light fare on the patio or outdoors that will run about \$15 a person. The restaurant serves seasonal French cuisine at an average cost of \$35 a person. Reservations are recommended.

Landlubber's Seafood Restaurant



The 'Wacket: It ain't wack

serves seafood any way you like. Get it Calabash-style, broiled, grilled, steamed, cajun or continentally prepared. The orders come with coleslaw, salad, french fries, baked potatoes and really awesome hush puppies. Try the shrimp, flounder, scallops, salmon or steamed lobster, for starters. Meals range from \$4 to \$15, and the atmosphere is casual. Landlubber's is located on Highway 54 at Interstate 40.

411 West Italian Cafe features a wood-burning pizza oven and cappuccino bar. The atmosphere is elegant yet casual, and there's a classy-looking bar where you can watch T.V. 411 West offers fresh seasonal pasta and seafood in addition to their Italian specialties. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and dinner every night from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The restaurant offers a late night menu, too. 411 West is located at the easily memorized 411 W. Franklin St.

Cucina Rustica World-Class Cafe and Tapas Bar at University Square on

West Franklin Street boasts multi-ethnic food from the Mediterranean, "where food is considered one of life's great pleasures." On Monday through Friday you can get tapas appetizers costing from twenty cents to \$3.95. Entrees go from \$5.95 to \$14.95.

The Hill Room at Carolina Inn is a Chapel Hill landmark. Enjoy the quiet intimate atmosphere by candlelight. The dress is semi-formal, jackets are preferred for the guys and reservations are recommended. A favorite dish is the yellowfin tuna steak. Entrees range from \$14 to \$17 for dinner. The Hill Room is open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch from Monday to Saturday. Dinner is served from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

So there you have it. Tons o' real food restaurants to take your parents and have them spend money on you. Ain't it great? If they say it's too expensive, show them your refrigerator again. They'll take pity on you, won't they? It's a proven medical fact: College students cannot live on Taco Bell alone.

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