

Put away the Prego and pack away some primo pasta

So your parents are coming, and you figure they've missed you SO much that you can finagle a few free meals out of them. Are you aware of what's out there? Do you know where to go?

Have no fear. Omni's here! If you're in the mood for something Mediterranean, there's an azure sea of culinary delights within Chapel Hill which range from the quick, hip, and inexpensive, to the leisurely, classy and indulgent... it all depends on how much the parents missed you.

The classic Chapel Hill dining experience is most often equated with **The Rathskeller**, which can be found below Franklin Street near Players... if that doesn't explain the location you're either clueless, or have only been in town for two seconds. Open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and for dinner from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Sundays continuous from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Rat is famous for its lasagna, roast beef and New York Style Cheesecake. The atmosphere is casual and graffiti varies from room to room. 'Nuff said.

Serving Americanized Italian cuisine with a twist, **411 West** (its name is its address on Franklin Street) has a casual cafe atmosphere with uptown elegance. Specialties range from pizzettes cooked in their wood-burning stove to fresh seafood entrees, and fresh pastas made daily on the premises (The Lemon Linguine may be the most famous item). Add to this a selection of fresh desserts and a cappuccino bar, and you've got an elegant dining experience. Entrees range from \$5 to \$14.50. Lunch hours are Monday through Friday 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dinners are from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and Sundays from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

If an extremely elegant Northern Italian experience is what you're looking for, **Il Palio**, located in the Siena Hotel may be the place to go. Named one of two 4-diamond hotel and restaurants in the state by AAA this year, and recipient of the Wine Spectator award

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for 1992, one can be assured of a high quality meal. Entrees range from \$15.95 to \$21.95, or if you're really adventurous, a six-course extravaganza for \$38.95. Pastas change bi-weekly, and are imported from Italy. Fresh seafood entrees include a grilled swordfish with saffron sauce and salmon poached with dill sauce and served with baby lentils. Desserts are made fresh on the premises, and include a chocolate terrine with Frangelica Sauce. The atmosphere is elegant, but not stuffy, much like a nice \$500,000 home. Suit and tie are recommended, and reservations are preferred. Breakfast is served daily from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., with a Sunday brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Marco Polo offers an interesting mixture of Italian and Chinese cuisine, in an elegant setting. Located on N.C. 15-501 across from Performance Chevrolet/BMW, it's open for dinner from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. during the week.

Still within the realm of Italian, but much more casual is **Sal's Pizza and Italian Restaurant**, located in Eastgate Shopping Center between Food Lion and Eckerd's. Specialties range from spinach lasagna to New York Style Pizza, to what I am told is a real, live Philly Style Cheesesteak sandwich (hard to find in this neck of the cosmos.) They also offer a mean cannoli and New York style cheesecake for dessert. Prices range from around \$3 for sandwiches to \$5 on entrees. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and Sunday from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Pepper's Pizza is a must for anyone looking for good pizza and a classic Chapel Hill dining experience. Located on Franklin Street between The Variety Theatre and Record Bar, Pepper's offers 23 toppings, calzones, strombolis and a cool bowl o' garpacho. Hours are Monday through Wednesday 11 a.m. to midnight, Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., and Sunday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. The atmosphere is

relaxing and fun, and comfortable for everyone... even if your hair's not blue.

Pizza Chef Gourmet Pizza, located at 300 E. Main St. in Carrboro next to the ArtsCenter, offers gourmet pizzas in a friendly cafe atmosphere. You can enjoy a Greek specialty pizza, or a combination of any of their 28 toppings, surrounded by the works of local artists. Prices are reasonable, and vary according to pie size and the amount of toppings. Hours are from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday.

Tony's Pizza in University Mall offers Calzones, strombolis and pizza by the slice as well as by the pie. Open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., the atmosphere is fun and cozy.

Marto's Pizza offers handmade pizza, homestyle lasagna, hot sandwiches and salads in a relaxed setting. Prices usually average \$15 to \$20 a couple. Located in Cole Park Plaza, Marto's is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and on Sunday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Italian Pizzeria III, located at 508 W. Franklin St. offers everything from pizza and strombolis to hot and cold sandwiches to lasagna, which can be eaten in or taken out. Their hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday 3 p.m. to midnight.

Of course, no list of pizza joints would be complete without the old faithful... **Pizza Hut!** Not only do we have Pizza Hut, we have three locations to choose from. You can dine in or carry out from either 109 S. Estes or 110 W. Franklin St., but be careful! Parking for the Franklin Street location is in University Square across the street, so don't park in front of the store unless you're just picking up an order... and if you want delivery, call 942-0343.

The perfect transition restaurant for writers of articles such as this, **Leo's Restaurant** offers Greek and Italian cuisine. Specialties include pizza, a variety of Italian entrees, mousaka and



If you ever go to Mariakakis, this is the first thing you'll see

spanakopita and the desert selection boasts a sweet baklava and cheesecake. Prices range from \$5.95 to \$11.95. Hours are Monday through Thursday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Leo's is located at 423 W. Franklin St., a block up from McDonald's.

Casual Greek fare seems to thrive in Chapel Hill. **Mariakakis**, located on N.C. 15-501, across from the Holiday Inn boasts a diverse menu and an incredible bakery. Some of the classic favorites include Arabic bread, spanakopita, and grape leaves prepared fresh on the premises. The setting is very casual, and prices are very reasonable. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Marathon, located at 708 W. Rosemary St., is another great place to enjoy Greek food in a laid back setting. The menu ranges from sandwiches and platters to salads to a fantastic vegetarian pizza. Open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, the prices are reasonable and the

food has become a staple for many a Carolina student.

The new **Mediterranean Cafe** across from McDonald's on West Franklin also has cheap, authentic Middle Eastern food. In a small restaurant with posters of Middle Eastern sites can be found some of the most authentic hummus in Chapel Hill, as well as falafel, gyros, zaater pie (oregano pita) and pistachio baklava. Most sandwiches hover around \$3, and even platters aren't more than \$5. For hours call 967-2666.

Last but not least is **Zorba's**, which can be found on South Elliott Road, near Wellspring Grocery. Open for dinner Tuesday through Thursday 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the menu offers a wide variety of Greek and Italian sandwiches and entrees. Dinner prices range from \$5.95 to \$11.95, dress is casual, and the atmosphere is quiet and quaint.

So that's it. Eat. Drink. Charge it to your parents. And enjoy.

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