

Tracy's Restaurant Guide

Eagle Rock, Northeast Los Angeles, and occasional forays into Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena

This is my personal, subjective, and sporadically updated guide to local food and drink establishments located mostly in the Northeast Los Angeles area, branching out to Pasadena, South Pasadena, Altadena, San Gabriel. Asterisks indicate that one of us on my team has been there, tasted the food, and likes it. Call the restaurant for current hours. Several of the Highland Park entries were taken from a brochure made by Amy Inouye at Future Studio, 5558 N. Figueroa St, 90042. FutureStudio@sbcglobal.net www.chickenboy.com.

*La Abeja	3700 N. Figueroa St.	Highland Park	323.221.0474		Mural by Leo Limon, the artist who has painted the cat faces in the LA River for over 35 years! Great huevos rancheros if you don't mind mostly canned ingredients, and I mean that.
Antigua Bread	5703 N. Figueroa St.	Highland Park	323.259.9345	http://www.antiguabread.com/	Bakery and cafe.
Antojitos Guerrero	5623 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323.254.6118		Salvadorean & Mexican, 4-taco special
El Arco Iris	5684 York Blvd	Highland Park	323.254.3401	www.elarcoiris.com	Popular with locals, good authentic Mexican food
*Armon's	5056 Eagle Rock Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.478.1440		Good solid American breakfast and lunch, also some Chinese fare. Nice neighborhood atmosphere, friendly waitresses, good daily lunch specials.
*Auntie Em's	4616 Eagle Rock Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.255.0800	www.AuntieEmskitchen.com	Great breakfast and lunch, cookies, soups, indoor and outdoor seating, also excellent catering. New! Home delivery and holiday pickup options. Vegetarian friendly but they

					also have good pulled pork sandwiches. Occasional Market Dinners with wine suggestions you can buy from Colorado Wine Company—sign up for their email newsletter and catch the next Dinner, it's fantastic!
Bellissimo Cafe	2501 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.255.2233		
*Bistro de la Gare	921 Meridian Ave.	South Pasadena	626.799.8828	www.bistrodelagare.com	Really charming, great French bistro food, wine bar, located right by the Gold Line.
*The Black Boar	1630 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.258.8800		This is one cool bar, no food served at all. English pub-like interior with great jukebox, good martinis, good selection of beers on tap and bottled, friendly staff.
*Blue Dot Acai Yogurt now Spoon	5110 Townsend Ave	Eagle Rock	323-259-0544	www.bluedotacai.com	Frozen yogurt with toppings priced by the gram. Also coffee, smoothies, pretty healthy choices. I hope this incarnation makes it because the quality of the menu is great.
*The Blue Hen	1743 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.5654	www.eatatbluehen.com	Vietnamese food, lunch and dinner. This restaurant supports local farms and sustainable farming practices, and it is good food, too.
*Brownstone Pizza	2108 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.4992		Good New York style pizza and you can also buy it by the slice! Since they are 2 doors down from Colorado Wine Company, you can order pizza and they'll bring it to you at CoWineCo.
*The Bucket	4541 Eagle Rock Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.5654	www.thebucket1935.com/	Known for Basque-style hamburgers. Longtime Oxy hangout.

*Bulgarini Gelato	749 E. Altadena Dr.	Altadena	626.791.6174	http://www.bulgarinigelato.com/	Voted best gelato by LA Weekly, a great write-up by Jonathan Gold, and I have to say I had some of the best peach sorbet in my life there. It's the real deal, though I would rather be in Rome than Altadena sometimes, just sometimes.
*Cacao Mexicatessen	1576 Colorado Blvd	Eagle Rock	323-478-2791	www.cacaodeli.com	Smell the made-on-premises tortillas as you enter the doorway and get ready to be transported to Mexico. Specializing in mole, but there is a variety of styles and flavors from all over the country. Take-out, eat-in, and catering. Really yummy huevos rancheros.
*Café Beaujolais	1712 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.255.5111		Classic French bistro food, wine & beer. Extremely good.
*Café Culture	1359 N. Altadena Blvd.	Pasadena	626.398.8654		Coffee house with good baked goods.
*Café de Leche	5000 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323-551-6828	www.cafedeleche.net	Remember how the Renaissance of Eagle Rock began with Swork's Coffee? Here is a great new coffee place in Highland Park, though I'd have to say the tide began to turn here with Marty's and the York Pub.
*Camilo's Café & Catering	2128 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.478.2644		California bistro serving tasty breakfast, lunch, dinner. Also afternoon tea by reservation and excellent catering. Live music on Thursday and Saturday evenings. Atmosphere is lovely, great for any occasion. Serves high-end huevos rancheros.
*The Capri	4604	Eagle	323.257.3225		Good solid traditional Italian food, large

	Eagle Rock Blvd.	Rock			portions, old-style Italian restaurant atmosphere.
*Casa Bianca	1650 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.256.9617	http://casabiancapizza.com	"The Best Pizza in Southern California." Try to beat the rush, but they have chairs outside so you can just visit with your friends while you wait. Takeout is a good choice.
El Chile	4017 N. Figueroa St.	Highland Park	323.221.5555		The only arepas (baked or fried cornmeal cake of traditional Colombian cuisine) on Figueroa, covered patio dining.
*Cinnamon Vegetarian	5511 Figueroa St.	Highland Park	323.982.9480	www.CinnamonVegetarian.com	An international but mostly Southwest/South American menu, all meat-free. Very tasty food, a nice, clean, comfortable space, friendly service.
*Classic Thai	1708 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.478.0530		Charming atmosphere with outdoor seating, moderate prices, good Thai food.
*The Coffee Gallery	2029 N. Lake Ave.	Altadena	626.398.7917	www.coffeegallery.com	Neighborhood coffee house with entertainment in the back room venue. Get on their email list, they have incredible talent performing, especially old folkies, acoustic guitarists and songwriters.
*The Coffee Table	1958 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.255.2200	www.coffeetablebis.com	Sister to the one in Silverlake. Great space, good food, coffee and now beer and wine. Sensitive restoration of the historic building and old photos of Eagle Rock add to the ambiance.
*Colombo's	1833 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.254.9138		Prime rib, steak, seafood, pasta. Piano music every evening, dimmed lighting, full bar with the strongest drinks around, interesting paintings, old neighborhood feel. Now with some outdoor seating as well.

*The Colorado Wine Co.	2114 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.478.1985	www.cowineco.com	Neighborhood wine bar with tastings Friday evenings and Sunday afternoon. Buy a glass or a case. No corkage fee on Wednesdays, which makes for a neighborly evening. Sign up for the email list for John's literary musings on the art and comedy of wine as well as details of the next tasting or art opening there. Twitter @CoWineCo.
*The Corner Pizzeria	2136 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.255.8300	http://www.cornerpizzeria.com/.	Famous for New York style pizza, also known for our Kapouri's- freshly baked oval bread stuffed with Mozzarella cheese, Feta and organic eggs. Also served are appetizing breakfast scramblers, hearty salads, mouthwatering pastas, tasty sandwiches, to appetizers and desserts (from their website).
*Dave's Chillin' & Grillin'	2152 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.490.0988	www.daveschillin.com	Dave is passionate about his sandwiches and he has every reason to be. Fresh, tasty, a bargain—the Eagle Rock business model between two halves of a fresh roll.
*Eagle Rock Brewery	3056 Roswell St.	Glassell Park	323.257.7866	www.eaglerockbrewery.com	Artisanal beers, the first microbrewery to be licensed in the City of Los Angeles in over 60 years! Beer for the people. Good beer. I like the Revolution, others prefer Manifesto. There's more. There was a big brewhaha (sic) over the name of Eagle Rock for a Brewery in Glassell Park. Get over it and enjoy. Check out the website for a list of all the bars that are pouring this brew--more all the time.
*Elvira's	1757 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.3216		Homemade Mexican food with lots of vegetarian options, prepared and served with love. Pepe Serna paintings decorate the walls. Will deliver.

Ernie Jr's Taco House	2803 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.256.1298	www.erniejrs.com/	One of the oldest restaurants around serving old-style American Mexican food. I have to mention that they put mayonnaise in their tostada dressing.
*La Estrella #3	6103 N. Figueroa	Highland Park	323.982.0179		Colorful house, corner location, great tacos. Served open with shredded carnitas, limes and very inexpensive. Voted one of the top 25 Mexican restaurants in LA in 2004.
*Footsie's	2640 N Figueroa Street	Highland Park	323.221.6900		No food here, but great laid-back bar with a pool table, good tunes, and plenty of colorful characters.
*Four Cafe	2122 1/2 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.550.1988	www.fourcafe.net	Just opened in 2010 and the buzz is all positive. Right now it's salads, sandwiches, soups and desserts. Fresh, slow food, tasty, fast, fun. Plus, you can order there and they will bring your food to you at the Colorado Wine Company just 2 doors down so you can have a glass of wine with your meal. How civilized is that? They also do take out and catering. The menu changes with the seasons, hence the name...
*Firefly Bistro	1009 El Centro Ave.	South Pasadena	626.441.2443	www.eatatfirefly.com	Exceptional New Orleans style cuisine, the signature dish is pecan-crust ed catfish, oh yes. Check out special menus and music on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
*Folliero's	5566 N Figueroa St	Highland Park	323.254.0505	www.Follieros.com	Established in 1968, Tony Folliero still makes his own pizza dough every morning, though daughter Titina now runs the restaurant. Friendly staff, great thin-crust pizza, other yummy Italian dishes you will love as much as do the generations of Highland Parkers who

					still go there. Cash only! But beer and wine are served. Really reasonable prices.
*La Fuente	2256 W. Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.344.3796		Reliable Mexican food, recently reopened after a remodel. Full bar.
	5530 Monte Vista St.	Highland Park	323.258.6109		
*Good Girl Dinette	110 N. Avenue 56	Highland Park	323.257.8980	http://www.goodgirldinette.com/	American diner meets Vietnamese comfort food.
	5552 N. Figueroa St.	Highland Park	323.257.3564		One door south of Future Studio
El Huarache Azteca	5225 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323.478.9572		A hotspot for locals and visiting foodies. See if you agree with Jonathan Gold.
Italiano's	5101 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323.255.0016		Pizza. Free delivery with minimum order.
	6500 N. Figueroa	Highland Park	323.255.6155		
*Jamba Juice	5053 Eagle Rock Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.349.0670	www.jambajuice.com	One of the many signs that Eagle Rock has arrived. Healthy, quick juiced drinks. This is in a building that was not torn down by the Walgreen's next door.
*Johnny's Bar	5006 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323.551-6959		Evilly good martinis. No food. Eat at the nearby York Pub or Marty's and stop in here as part of your Highland Park Pub crawl.

The Kitchen	1434 W. Colorado Blvd.	Pasadena	626.793.7234	http://thekitchen.net/	Offering catering, gourmet take-out and assorted gift items.
*Larkin's Joint	1496 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.254.0934	www.larkinsjoint.com	Contemporary California soul food in a juke joint atmosphere. Come here when you have no dietary restrictions, because this is good old fried catfish & greens, sweet potato pie, BBQ'd tri-tip kind of fare.
*Lemongrass	1952 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.258.8050	http://lemongrassvietnameserestaurant.com	Simple, good Vietnamese food with beer and wine served. Featured dishes include banh mi (sandwiches), pho (soup), spring rolls. Inexpensive, fresh, delicious food. Sit outside and enjoy life in the heart of Eagle Rock.
*Little Cave	5922 N. Figueroa St.	Highland Park	323.255.6871	www.littlecavebar.com	Formerly Sir Richard's biker bar and Hofbrau, now painted black inside and quite a hangout for local hipsters.
*Little Flower Candy Company	1424 W. Colorado Blvd.	Pasadena	626.304.4800	http://www.littleflowercandyco.com/	Adorable spot with a cafe (fantastic quiches) and a store with delicious handmade candies.
Mariscos Estilo D.F. Truck	4702 N. Figueroa St. at Sycamore Grove Park	Highland Park			Blue truck, seafood tostadas, eat in park. Made to order.
*Marty's	5137 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323.256.2400		The gentrification of Highland Park began here. Yummy bar food like Kobe beef burgers. Bouncers dressed in black, valet parking. Yes!
El Metate	5305 N.	Highland Park	323.478.8383		Homemade tortillas, cart often in front after dark with huge sizzling fresh meat spit.

	Figueroa St.				
*Mia Sushi	4741 Eagle Rock Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.256.2562	www.mia-sushi.com	Eagle Rock's first sushi restaurant. Great food, decor, valet parking. For you no raw fish die-hards, there is a selection of cooked non-fish Japanese-style items that is very good as well.
*My Taco	6300 York Blvd	Highland Park	323.256.2698		Potato tacos, carne asada fries. Good huevos rancheros as well.
*Oinkster	2005 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.3892	www.theoinkster.com	"Slow fast food" is their motto. It's really good and it's really, really slow—the service, that is. House cured pastrami, slow roasted pork and chicken, fresh good food. Now serving craft beers including the Eagle Rock Brewery. This has become a friendly neighborhood gathering spot. *Pst! we've heard they also are opening an Italian restaurant on York Blvd, stay tuned!
*Panang	1801 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.344.3796		If you're feeling like you might be coming down with a cold, go have a nice big bowl of Thai noodles, a tall frosty beer and be happy.
*Polka	4112 Verdugo Road	Eagle Rock	323.255.7887	www.polkacatering.com	Jonathan Gold says, "Polka, a sweet Polish restaurant near where Eagle Rock fades into Glendale, is that rarity in Los Angeles, an authentic, home-style Eastern European restaurant of the kind so common in Cleveland and Chicago..."
*Pat & Lorraine's	4720 Eagle Rock Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.7926		Local breakfast and lunch joint—it closes at 2:30 pm!
El Pescador	5230 N. Figueroa	Highland Park	323.255.8164		Popular for after church brunching

	St.				
*Petit Beaujolais	1651 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.255.5133		Great coffee, fresh croissants, very tasty breakfast and lunch, a perfect place to sit outside on a balmy day and just be in the heart of Eagle Rock.
*Purgatory Pizza	1326 E. 1st St.	East LA	323-262-5310	www.eatpurgatorypizza.com	New York-style pizza traditional style or hip with peperoni, or goat chees and pesto, or vegan. And Carmela's ice cream which is amazing. Seasonal flavors harvested from local farmer's markets vary daily. We tried cardamom, strawberry sorbet, and cranberry-orange-thyme. Oh yum! Right off the eastside Gold Line.
*Santa Maria Barbecue			626.963.3935	www.santamariagriil.com	All you can eat barbecues, parties, events. Simple fare and really tasty. Tri-tip top sirloin, chicken, beef ribs, beans, hot dogs or hamburgers, and that's about it. They only cater.
*Scoops	712 N. Heliotrope Dr.	Los Angeles	323.906.2649		Gelato, vegan ice cream & sorbet. You can have a taste of whatever they have available that day. Wild tastes like Jack Daniels & Cream, Blackberries and mango. Worth the drive out of Eagle Rock!
*Senor Fish	4803 Eagle Rock Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.7167	http://www.senorfish.net/	Great fish tacos and other Mexican food. Good outdoor seating.
*Schodorf's Luncheonette	5051 York Blvd	Highland Park	323.258.8040		The Schodorf's have begun a friendly empire on York Blvd with their Cafe de Leche and now Schodorf's. A simple menu with fresh and tasty sandwiches and salads. Eat in or take out,

					either way, you will be glad you did!
Spring Street Smokehouse	640 N. Spring St	Downtown	213.626.0535	www.sssmokehouse.com	The LA BBQ Guy is the Truck, and you can follow him on Twitter.
*Spitz	2505 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.5600	www.eatatspitz.com	Home of the Doner Kebab: lean meat, chilies, tzatziki, tomatoes & cucumbers in grilled focaccia, sweet potato fries. Good fast food plus gelato! Two Oxy grads went to Europe, loved it, and brought it back to Eagle Rock.
*The Spot	2032 Lincoln Ave.	Altadena		www.thespotpasadena.com	Now a catering business only, and really good.
*Starbucks	4430 York Blvd	Highland Park	323-340-8059	www.Starbucks.com	Practically in Highland Park, this Starbucks has a drive through.
*Stoney Point	1450 W. Colorado Blvd.	Pasadena	626.449.9715	www.stoneypointrestaurant.com	Italian-style cuisine, great atmosphere.
*Swork	2160 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.258.5600	www.swork.com	Good coffee, Free—note, Free wireless internet, kid-friendly hangout, a great community hangout, the first of the “cool factor” beginning of Eagle Rock’s commercial core.
*The Taco Spot	2005 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.257.4727	www.taco-spot.com	Really tasty, fresh Mexican food. Reasonably priced, good service, very convenient.
Tacos El Michoacoano	5933 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323.258.0794		Authentic excellent Michoacan made from scratch
*Tamales	4629 E.	East LA	323-780-0989		Everyone says have the tamales or the pozole,

Liliana's	Cesar Chavez Ave				so that's what we did, and we loved it. Really exceptionally fluffy and yummy tamales. 2 blocks from the Indiana Gold Line stop.
*Thai Spirit	2617 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.256.1644		Free delivery with minimum order.
*Tommy's Burgers	1717 Colorado Blvd.	Eagle Rock	323.982.1746		Some people in my family love Tommy's. If you want a heart attack on a bun, you can start here.
*Two Guys from Italy	405 N. Verdugo Rd.	Glendale	323.254.0404	glendaletwoguysfromitaly.com	Free delivery with minimum order. I think their pizza rivals that of Casa Bianca, plus they have really good sub-sandwiches.
*Verdugo Bar	3408 Verdugo Rd.	Glassell Park	323-257-3408	www.VerdugoBar.com	Open 8 pm-2 am. A large selection of custom beers including Crown City Brewery. Art Deco interior. Look for the small "Cocktails" sign or you'll miss it.
*Villa Sombrero	6101 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323.256.9784		Formerly Villa Sombrero and now formerly Felipe. We are back to the good solid Mexican food, guacamole made at your table, beer and amazing Margaritas. Hooray!
*York Pub	5018 York Blvd.	Highland Park	323.255.9675	www.theyorkonyork.com	Another of the new bars along York Blvd, part of the renaissance of Highland Park and the birth of the cool. Lots of good beers, good food, good times, and now even open for brunch on the weekends. Even beer from the Craftsman Brewery in Pasadena is served, a major treat.
*Zankou Chicken	1415 E. Colorado Blvd.	Glendale	818.244.1937	zankouchicken.com	Some of the best fast food in the world. Garlic sauce, hummus, pita bread, rotisserie chicken, shwarma, it's actually addictive.

Do you have restaurants you'd like to see included on this list? Do you have any real estate needs? Call Tracy King, Realtor, Teles Properties, 626-827-9795, email at Tracy@TracyKing.com. Check out my website at www.TracyKing.com. Please comment on my blog at www.LADigs.com.