


SOME FAVORITE BOSTON RESTAURANTS

There are many great restaurants in the Boston area, as you will discover if you participate in the inaugural “Dine Around” following the Capps Lecture on Friday evening. The eateries listed here are some favorites of Mass Humanities board members, advisory board members, and staff and an easy walk or short cab ride (15 minutes or less) from the conference hotel. Boston’s subway system is called “the T” -- it is the [oldest subway in the nation](#) but still serves the city well. The one-way fare is \$2.25. Vending machines inside all  Stations dispense CharlieCards (named in tribute to, “Charlie on the MTA,” the folksong popularized by the Kingston Trio in the 1950s [\[listen\]](#) and also known locally as the Irish Drinking Song). You might enjoy a ride on the MTA and you shall return!

Price	Rating	Vegetarian	Gluten free	Vegan
\$	★	VT	GF	VG

from YELP/TripAdvisor & not guaranteed

A SHORT WALK FROM THE HYATT HOTEL

Cultivar

\$\$\$\$ ★★★★★ **reservations recommended**

1 Court Street

(617) 979-8203

<http://cultivarboston.com>

Cultivar focuses its lunch and dinner menus on local, sustainable, seasonal cuisine, with ingredients sourced from chef-owner Mary Dumont’s home garden and the restaurant’s on-site hydroponic container garden. Cultivar is located in the Ames Hotel, at 1 Court Street, a half mile walk from the Hyatt Regency. Try the beautifully designed Burrata Salad or Snail Toast as starters, followed by the Rustic Torcchio or Striped Bass for dinner. Cultivar’s team includes one of the City’s best pastry chefs and also Boston’s top sommelier, so a meal would not be complete without wine pairings, house bread, and dessert. The restaurant offers a patio with outdoor fireplaces, providing one of the City’s only fall weather patios. Entrees at Cultivar are priced between \$15–32, with a number of options that can be ordered in small or large portions, and entrees that can be ordered as shared meals.

FOR PARTIES OF SIX OR MORE, WE RECOMMEND MAKING RESERVATIONS AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. FOR WALK-INS, WE ONLY SEAT PARTIES ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

Townsmen

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ **VT GF reservations recommended wknds**

120 Kingston Street

(617) 993-0750

<http://townsmenboston.com/>

Townsmen is a brasserie-inspired, New England restaurant, located on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. Townsmen is lively and convivial with a refined sensibility and a welcoming atmosphere, reminiscent of your favorite neighborhood haunt. Expensive and worth it.

Legal Crossing

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF reservations recommended show nights & wknds

558 Washington Street

(617) 692-8888

The newest offering from the Boston-based [Legal Sea Foods](#) empire -- right across the street from the Hyatt Regency. Excellent fresh fish dishes beautifully presented. Established in Cambridge's Inman Square in 1950, Legal Sea Foods ("If it isn't fresh, it isn't legal!") now comprises over 30 restaurants from Massachusetts to Florida owned and operated by the same family. Like almost all chains, the food and service are inconsistent, but this one stands apart.

The Oceanaire Seafood Room

\$\$ ★★★★★ VG reservations recommended, especially for 4+

40 Court Street

(617) 742-2277

www.theoceanaire.com/Locations/Boston/Locations.aspx

Upscale seafood restaurant with locations in several major cities including Baltimore and Washington, DC. Excellent all around dining experience.

Fajitas and 'Ritas

\$\$ ★★★★★ VT

25 West Street

(617) 426-1222

www.fajitasandritas.com

Fun, funky, fast, with very good Mexican and Tex-Mex fare. Good choice for lunch or dinner just a short walk from the Hyatt. On the same short street is the [Brattle Book Shop](#), one of the oldest (1826) and largest used book stores in the country.

The 21st Amendment

\$\$ ★★★★★ do not take reservations

150 Bowdoin Street

(617) 227-7100

www.21stboston.com

This neighborhood pub appeals to both tourists and Boston residents. Meals and drinks are reliable, the atmosphere is casual and fun, and walking through the door prompts conversations on American history and constitutional law. If you are there for lunch, pop into the State House across the street and check out the interior architecture and [HEAR US](#) – our monumental sculpture commemorating the contributions of women to public life in Massachusetts.

CHINATOWN

All a short walk from the Hyatt Regency Hotel

China Pearl

\$\$ ★★★★★

9 Tyler Street

(617) 426-4338

<http://chinapearlboston.net/>

One of the oldest restaurants in Boston Chinatown, this dim sum favorite was managed for many years by an MIT alum. A regular place for many families. What can I say except engineers know how to do dim sum!

Shabu-Zen Chinatown

\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF VG

16 Tyler Street

(617) 292.8828

<http://www.shabuzen.com/index.html>

Shabu-Shabu Hot Pot is always fun if you have a group. Shabu-Zen is a favorite with hip clientele and touted as “authentic” Hot Pot. Boston Herald said: "Here's a meal that's inexpensive, healthy, delicious and fun!" Nothing beats hot pot on a cold day.

Penang

\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF

685 Washington Street

(617) 451-6373

www.penangboston.com

This is a fun place to try Malaysian Chinese food. They are especially famous for ROTI CANAI and MEE SIAM. The food is very moderately spicy.

SOUTH END

MIDA

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT **reservations recommended wknds**

782 Tremont Street

(617) 936-3490

<http://www.midaboston.com>

MIDA is an independent Italian trattoria in Boston's South End with views of iconic brownstones and the Pru. Accessible from the Hyatt Regency by a short ride on the Orange Line, a 10-minute cab ride, or a beautiful mile and a half walk through one of Boston's historic neighborhoods, MIDA provides a welcoming environment for a wonderful Italian meal. The menu, described by the Boston Globe as “exuberance – unrestrained,” includes pasta dishes made each morning by hand and a generous antipasti starter with meats, cheeses, vegetables, and olives. The Ricotta Gnocchi or Bucatini all' Amatriciana are highly recommended. The restaurant seats 80 and can host larger parties along long tables. The restaurant's menu is priced for the neighborhood with entrees ranging between \$16–25, with a reasonably priced, chef-inspired tasting menu at \$40.

Myers + Chang

\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF VG **reservations recommended**

1154 Washington Street

(617) 542-5200

www.myersandchang.com/

This Asian fusion restaurant is a beloved South End standby for many reasons: warm service, a relaxed and social vibe, and above all consistently good food. Executive chef Karen Akunowicz's

menu of Asian small plates includes sticky tea-smoked spare ribs, fiery tiger's tears salad, nasi goreng, and other inspired dishes. Placed second in the Boston Globe's [2017 Munch Madness](#) Campaign (**Oleana** took the honors). Less than a mile from the hotel.

Bar Mezzana

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF reservations recommended

360 Harrison Avenue

(617) 530-1770

www.barmezzana.com/

Italian coastal cuisine with an emphasis on housemate pasta. No red sauce. They are very welcoming and there is great service. It is moderately loud. The private room is quiet for a group of 3-4 would be fine. I'd look at their menu on-line for prices and exact dishes as it changes seasonally. Prices are moderate for Boston, but not inexpensive.

S|R|V (Serene Republic of Venice)

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ *VT GF VG

569 Columbus Avenue

(617) 536-9500

<http://srvboston.com/>

A bit more casual with cuisine from the Venetian region; mostly small plates (*cicchetti*) for individuals or to share lots of tastes. Everything is delicious, so it just depends on personal preference. They do have a large section that can hold a group, not sure of the capacity. Moderately priced for the quality. It's lively, but you can have a conversation.

Teranga

\$\$\$ ★★★★★

1746 Washington Street

(617) 266-0003

www.terangaboston.com

Teranga is Boston's first authentic Senegalese restaurant, featuring traditional dishes found in the homes and kitchens of Senegal. Try the Thiébou Djeun (National Dish). Herb-stuffed white fish cooked in tomato stew with broken jasmine rice served with cassava, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, eggplant, and pumpkin (owner's favorite). Open for dinner only.

Wink & Nod

\$\$\$ ★★★★★

3 Appleton Street

Boston

(617) 482-0117

<http://winkandnod.com/>

Inspired cocktails and innovative New American menu created by a rotating set of two regional chefs in a modern speakeasy-esque setting with a classy, vintage vibe.

BACK BAY

Atlantic Fish Company

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ **VT GF** reservations required for dinner

761 Boylston Street

(617) 267-4000

www.atlanticfishco.com

A Fodor's Choice: "Designed to look like an ocean vessel with gorgeous wood finishes and nautical artwork, this local seafood restaurant delivers first-class fish, so fresh that the extensive menus are printed daily to reflect the day's catch served broiled, baked, blackened, fried, grilled, or pan-seared. Unsnap your starched napkin and begin with a platter of chilled seafood (lobster, little necks, oysters, crab, and shrimp), followed by any one of the specialties ranging from simple fried Ipswich clams to pan-seared bass with lobster ravioli in an unctuous lobster cream sauce. The sea bass chowder with bacon is a delectable alternative to the common clam-based versions around town. Steak and chicken are available for culinary landlubbers."

Mooncusser Fish House and Moon Bar

\$\$\$\$ ★★★★★ reservations required

304 Stuart Street

(617) 917-5193

<http://www.mooncusserfishhouse.com>

On the third floor of the triangular building at 304 Stuart Street, in Boston's Back Bay, Mooncusser provides one of the City's only upscale seafood restaurants. The Boston Globe's Food Editor recommends "local, seasonal seafood: striped bass crudo with pickled rhubarb, seared gnocchi with uni, stuffed skate with lobster, chard, and baby carrots, monkfish with caviar, kohlrabi, and tarragon bourride." On the first floor, the restaurant offers a more casual bar that maintains the modern seafood menu. The restaurant was designed for quiet conversation and intimate celebratory meals. Mooncusser is a 10 to 15-minute walk from the Hyatt Regency through Boston's theater district. The third floor fish house has prices appropriate for Boston's higher-end restaurants, but the first floor bar offers a lower price point to sample the restaurant's offerings.

La Voile, Boston Brasserie

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ reservations strongly recommended Th/F/Sat, weekdays call

261 Newbury Street

(617) 587-4200

<http://www.lavoileboston.net/>

A genuine French bistro with superb Southern French cuisine on a street lined with renovated 19th century brownstones, restaurants, and retail shopping.

Top of the Hub

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ **VT GF VG** reservations strongly recommended

80 Boylston Street

(617) 536-1775

<http://topofthehub.net/>

Very good New England restaurant with unsurpassed views of Boston from the 52nd floor of the Prudential Center. Also open for lunch. If you just want the view, visit the [Skywalk Observatory](#) and Dreams of Freedom Museum on the 50th floor (tickets are \$19; \$15 for pensioners over 62).

Scampo

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF VG reservations recommended

The Liberty Hotel
215 Charles Street
(617) 536-2100

<https://scampoboston.com/>

Beautiful restaurant in the really cool Liberty Hotel, the renovated old Boston jail. Mozzarella bar, amazing naan, and great selections from the one-of-a-kind Lydia Shire. About a 20-minute walk from the Hyatt or take the “T” (Red Line) from Downtown Crossing to Charles/MGH.

KENMORE SQUARE

Sweet Cheeks Q

\$\$ ★★★★★ GF reservations recommended

1381 Boylston Street
(617) 266-1300

www.sweetcheeksq.com

The American South north of the Mason Dixon Line. This is the place for meat-lovers. “Never Ever” beef, heritage pork, all natural free-range chicken.

Sol Azteca

\$\$ ★★★★★ reservations recommended for large party, Fr/Sat, Fenway event

914 Beacon Street
(617) 262-0909

www.solaztecaboston.com

Traditional Mexican fare. Considered by some to be the best in Boston. Kenmore Square (Boston University) neighborhood. On the Green Line (St. Mary’s St.)

Eastern Standard Time

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF VG reservations strongly recommended for 2+

528 Commonwealth Ave.
(617) 532-9100

www.easternstandardboston.com

A spacious brasserie-style restaurant a short walk from historic Fenway Park. The bar area and red banquettes fill most nights with Boston's power players (members of the Red Sox front office frequent the place), thirtysomethings, and students from the nearby universities all noshing on raw-bar specialties and comfort dishes such as lamb-sausage rigatoni, rib eye, and burgers. The cocktail list ranks as one of the best in town, filled with old classics and new concoctions, and in addition to a boutique wine list you'll find a reserve list for rare beers. A covered, heated patio offers alfresco dining year-round.

JAMAICA PLAIN

Doyle's Café

\$\$ ★★★★★

3484 Washington Street

(617) 524-2345

www.doylescafeboston.com

Boston is the “Irish capital of America” and the home of dozens of authentic Irish pubs. One of the most famous is Doyle's Café, established in 1882. Regularly voted Boston's Best Pub, Doyle's is also a historic landmark in Jamaica Plain offering a full Irish-infused menu and one of New England's largest selection of draft beers. The first home of Sam Adams Beer.

Tres Gatos

\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF

470 Centre Street

(617) 477-4851

tresgatosjp.com

This full-service restaurant, book, and music store, is primarily a tapas restaurant, with excellent dishes, a bustling dining room, and shelves of books, CDs, and vinyl albums.

Eugene O'Neill's

\$\$ ★★★★★ VT

3700 Washington Street

<https://www.facebook.com/eugeneoneills/>

(617) 553-2492

Like Doyle's, Eugene O'Neill's is another popular Jamaica Plain institution, located across the street from the Forest Hills T Station. It's got plenty of craft beers and is usually full of friendly patrons.

J.P. Licks

\$ ★★★★★

659 Centre Street

www.jplicks.com

(617) 524-6740

Arguably the best spot for ice cream in the entire Boston area, the original J.P. Licks, housed in a former Victorian firehouse, complements its quirky décor with homemade ice cream, homemade frozen yogurt, and coffee roasted right in the building. Everything J.P. Licks makes and serves is Kosher certified, and the organization works to support other small businesses and charities in the neighborhood.

DORCHESTER

Banh Mi Ba Le

\$ ★★★★★ take out only

1052 Dorchester Avenue

(617) 265-7171

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

Dorchester has a large Vietnamese community. Banh Mi Ba Le is a simple, family place with fresh bread, vegan food, desserts, and a terrific reputation for having the best Vietnamese sandwiches in Boston. It's right on busy "Dot Ave" and is a short walk from the Savin Hill T Station. Take the Red Line from Downtown Crossing.

Restaurante Cesaria

\$\$ ★★★★★

266 Bowdoin Street

(617) 282-1998

www.restaurantcesaria.com

This Cape Verdean restaurant offers an environment that is warm, welcoming, and sophisticated. The traditional dishes are accompanied by murals, paintings, and occasionally, live music.

The Ashmont Grill

\$\$ ★★★★★ GF

555 Talbot Avenue

(617) 825-4300

<http://ashmontgrill.com/>

Located at the very end of the T's red line, Peabody Square's Ashmont Grill offers "modern tavern cuisine." New England sports teams are often showing on not-too-obtrusive televisions, and it's a comfortable place to eat excellent food—especially the seafood starters—and talk.

CAMBRIDGE/SOMERVILLE

Oleana

\$\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF VG reservations required

134 Hampshire Street

Cambridge

(617) 661-0505

www.oleanarestaurant.com/

One of Conde Nast's "Best Places to Eat *in the World*." Featuring Turkish and Middle East inspired cuisine, Chef Ana Sortun is considered a magician fresh ingredients and aromatic spices. Winner of the Boston Globe's 2017 Munch Madness Campaign.

Harvest

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF VG reservations recommended

44 Brattle Street, Harvard Square

Cambridge

(617) 868-2255

www.harvestcambridge.com

Highly lauded restaurant tucked along a cobblestone pathway in the heart of the Harvard Square. A Cambridge classic.

Little Donkey

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF VG reservations recommended

505 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge

(617) 945-1008

www.littledonkeybos.com/

From James Beard Award-Winning Chefs Ken Oringer and Jamie Bissonette comes a global tapas restaurant in the heart of Central Square Cambridge. Casual, hip, moderate prices.

Puritan & Company

\$\$\$ ★★★★★ VT reservations recommended

1166 Cambridge St., Inman Square

Cambridge

(617) 615-6195

www.puritancambridge.com

Modern American cuisine, with particular emphasis on traditional New England fare with occasional excursions into other ethnic ingredients and styles. Ingredients sourced from local farms and fish markets.

Posto

\$\$ ★★★★★ VT reservations recommended

187 Elm street, Davis Square

Somerville

www.postoboston.com

Neopolitan Italian Restaurant with outstanding wood-fired pizza. Posto operates Boston's first wood-fired food truck. Take the Red Line from Downtown Crossing to Davis Square.

Sarma

\$\$\$ ★★★★★

249 Pearl Street

Somerville

www.sarmarestaurant.com/

Small plates and a casual atmosphere in this second location for Anna Sortun of Oleanna fame. We like Sarma even better - so fun for larger groups. 15-20 minute cab ride.

If you are just looking for a good cup of coffee and something sweet (or maybe a sandwich), try **Flour Bakery + Café** (\$\$ ★★★★★ VT GF VG). There are [eight locations](#) across Boston and Cambridge. The one nearest the conference hotel is in the Fort Point Channel district at 12 Farnsworth Street (about a 15-minute walk) next to the Boston Children's Museum. While you are in the neighborhood, check out the Museum of Contemporary Art and the John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse.