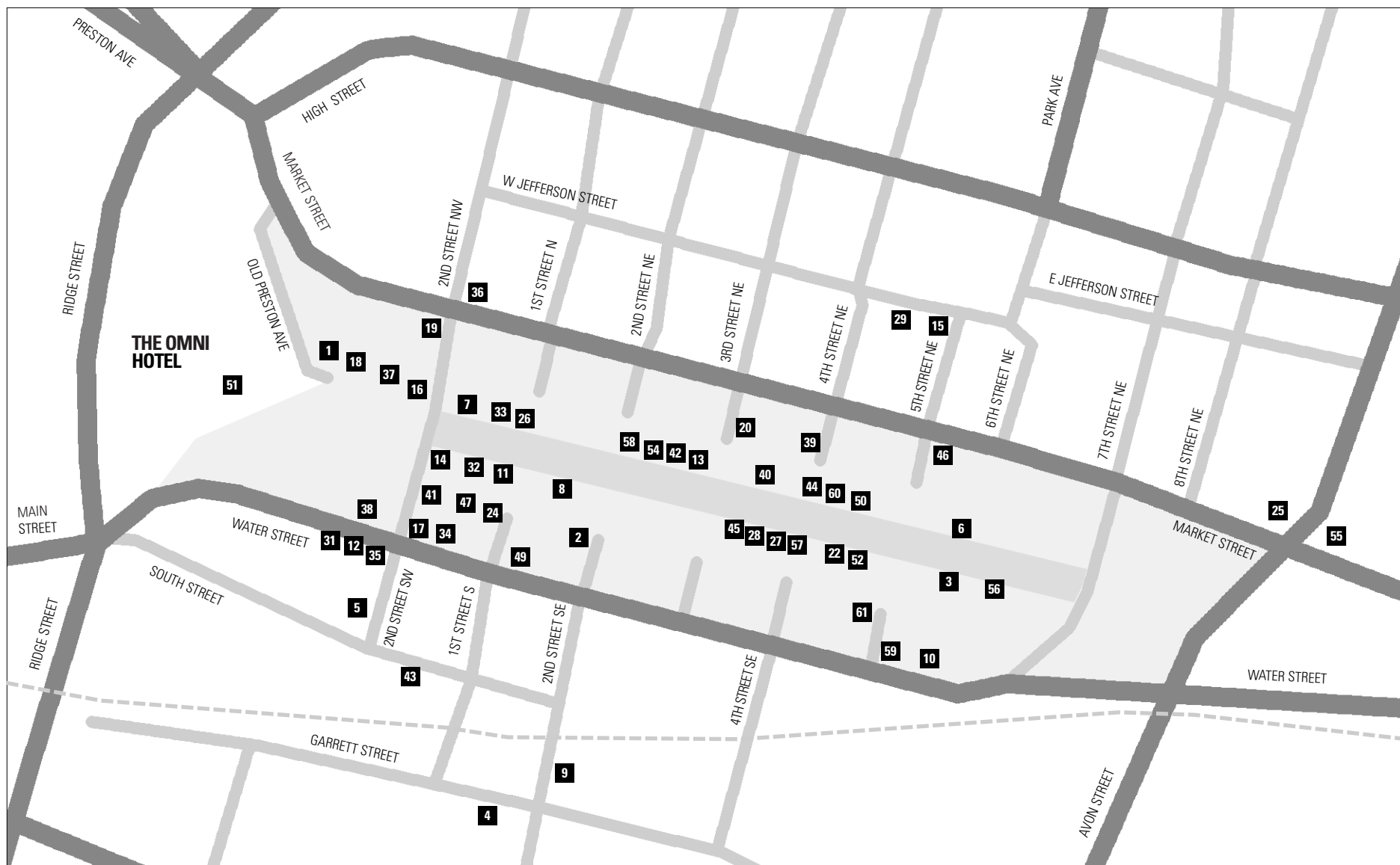


FOCUS ON DOWNTOWN



Al Dente Multi-regional Italian dishes served in a warm, friendly atmosphere. Bread baked fresh daily, handmade pastas and desserts, extensive wine list. Romantic. 225 W. Main St. 295-9922. **1**

Atomic Burrito A retro-style little taco and burrito bar on Second Street flanking the new City Center for Contemporary Arts (C3A)— with a curvaceous silver-topped bar, papered in gray, black and red polka-dots— all part of the retro, sedated Jetson scheme. Delivery service is a new addition. 109 Second St. SE 977-0117. **2**

Baggy's Gourmet Sandwiches Sandwiches come in a brown bag with your name on it, just like mom made for ya. Also at Forest Lakes Shopping Center. 512 E. Main St. 984-1862, 974-7616. **3**

Baker's Palette With croissants, pastries, egg wraps and granola bars, this Garrett Street patisserie livens up life on the southside. Hot chocolate with homemade marshmallows. Lunch offerings and cakes to take away or order for special occasions. 126-B Garrett St. 295-3009. **4**

Bang! Asian tapas-type fare one block off the Downtown Mall near South Street Inn. Late night in-spot, with martinis of every stripe. 213 Second St. SW. 984-BANG, 984-2264. **5**

Bashir's With international flair, and, of course, the always friendly Bashir himself.

Tapas and other delectables. 507 E. Main St. 923-0927. **6**

Bizou Nouvelle cuisine, a long bar, and an exposed kitchen let you watch the chefs create with French flair. Under the Hook office at Second Street. 119 W. Main St. 977-1818. **7**

Blue Light Grill Super stylish with multi-colored panels and dark booths, always bustling. Extensive seafood menu including raw bar, featuring some of the best calamari in the city. 120 E. Main St. 295-1223. **8**

Bluegrass Grill and Bakery Humongous portions, plates packed with grits and biscuits. Try the pesto omelet- it's divine. In the glass building on Second St. SE. 295-9700. **9**

C&O This town's oldest fine dining establishment, offering intimate dining upstairs (now on a fancy rear patio) and a downstairs pub. The eclectic menu shows French Provincial, American Southwest, and Pacific Rim influences. 515 E. Water St. 971-7044. **10**

Café Cubano Clasic Cuban paninis and breakfasts and coffee to help you recover from Friday night on Saturday morning. In York Place 971-8743. **11**

Cassis Up-scale American bistro cuisine with a French twist. Veteran Bizou chef Sean Lawford does the honors. 210 W. Water St. next to Mono Loco 979-0188. **12**

Chaps Ice Cream Old-fashioned (sorta) diner with lots of ice cream flavors, burgers,

and all the other trappings of 1955. 223 E. Main St. 977-4139. **13**

Christian's Pizza Gourmet pizza with toppings, toppings, and more toppings. Long lines, fast service. By Regal Cinema at Second Street crossing. 977-9688. **14**

Court Square Tavern 99 bottles of beer on the wall for this oft-smoky place, a favorite in legal circles. 500 Court Square. 296-6111. **15**

Downtown Grille Upscale steakhouse downtown with a notable list of single-malt scotches. Across from Regal Cinema at Second Street crossing. 817-7080. **16**

Downtown Thai Among traditional Thai specials, healthy jelly cubes adorn the Thai iced tea. Late nights, takeout and catering, too. Corner of Second and Water streets 245-9300. **17**

Eppie's Quick, fresh fare: meat and veggie combination plates, meal-sized salads, kids' selections and more. 412 E. Main St on the Downtown Mall 963-9900. **22**

Escafé Exotic ingredients with fun, hip, and happening late-nights on the west end of the Mall. Near the Omni. 295-8668. **18**

Fellini's #9 An old favorite back in a new incarnation, but with all the same ambience and furniture. Tuesday night trivia justly famous. Music, too.. and art shows! 201 W. Market St. 979-4279. **19**

Five Guys Burgers & Fries The name says it all. This award-winning burger joint moved

south from DC to up the grease intake of Charlottesville residents and promptly spread from Barracks Road to the Downtown Mall! Two locations keep burger lovers happy. Barracks Road Shopping Center at the Fountain and on the Downtown Mall in the former SNL building. 975-4897. **60**

Fleurie Up-scale intimate spot for traditional and nouveau French specialties. On Third Street by Paramount Theater 971-7800. **20**

Fuel Co. Fine fare reflecting local seasons and flavors of Virginia, with French overlay. Bistro atmosphere features braised lamb shank, thyme-crusted Poly Face Farm chicken pot pie, seared scallops. Apple beignets with creme anglaise for delectable dessert. And now, Sunday brunch. 901 E. Market St. 220-0864. **55**

Gravity Lounge This place has come on strong as a downtown music venue to reckon with, offering in addition a wide selection of books, computer stations, and art displays. This swinging music venue serves dinner in addition to hosting concerts by the likes of Slaid Cleaves and hometown favorite Danny Schmidt. 103 First St. Downtown. 977-5590. **24**

Guadalajara The granddaddy of Mexican food in Central Virginia and home of the neon margarita. (Two additional locations, 29N and Fontaine Ave.) On Market Street near City Hall. 977-2676, 978-4313, 979-2424. **25**

JUST LIKE THE TEA OPTIONS AT TWISTED, THE BEERS AT COURT SQUARE, OR THE SANDWICHES AT THE HARDWARE STORE, WHEN IT COMES TO EATING DOWNTOWN, SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S JUST *TOO MUCH* TO CHOOSE FROM. BUT WHETHER YOU PICK A PLACE BASED ON YOUR CRAVINGS (PIZZA OR STEAK?), YOUR MOOD (FIREPLACE OR LIVE MUSIC?), OR YOUR COMPANY (MILKSHAKES OR MARTINIS?), THERE ARE MORE THAN FOUR DOZEN ESTABLISHMENTS IN EASY WALKING DISTANCE OF YOUR APPETITE!

Hamiltons' at First & Main Tasty nouvelle offerings in swank locale with blue water glasses. Reservations recommended. 101 W. Main St. 295-6649. **26**

Hardware Store Built in an old hardware store featuring ribs, steaks, salads, and more sandwiches than a New York deli. Candyland guards the entrance, and Charlottesville's only pickle bar might wow New York expats. 316 E. Main across from the Nook. 977-1518. **27**

Henry's Home-cooked dinners like hamburger steak, meatloaf, pork chops, roast beef. Homemade soups and salads. All homemade desserts including carrot cake and fruit cobblers. On the Mall under Sylvia's Pizza. 310 E. Main St. 295-7550. **28**

Himalayan Fusion The menu at this new Downtown gem consists of Tibetan, Nepalese, and Indian dishes. 520 East Main St. on the Downtown Mall 293-3120. **56**

Inn at Court Square Genteel lunch at the oldest house downtown, offering a selection of salads, sandwiches, daily specials, and desserts. Diners receive 30 percent off on antiques purchases at the Inn and DeLoach Antiques. 410 E. Jefferson St. 295-2800. **29**

Kiki Café and Bar Stylin' new in-spot near the C&O on Water St. They're braggin' about their mojitos, paninis and guacamole, along with London broil and clams casino. Worth a visit. 117 Fifth St. SE 977-5454. **61**

La Cucina A trattoria serving exemplary regional dishes and wines at reasonable prices. Great place for cozy lunch. 214 Water St. 295-9050. **31**

Marco & Luca Popular noodle shop moved from tiny hole in the wall to bigger York Place space with tables inside and out. Cheap dumplings are the reason to stop by. York Place 295-3855. **32**

The Melting Pot This newest addition to the Mall, a unique fondue spot in the Holsinger Building, offers much more than cheese and chocolate. Try the four-course Big Night Out, an extravaganza of cheese, pork, chicken and beef (and lobster if you're really decadent) that you cook yourself and follow with over-the-top chocolate concoctions. 501 E. Water St. 244-3463. **59**

Miller's Beer and jazz. There's a menu, but you might want to eat before you go. 109 W. Main. 971-8511. **33**

Miyako Japanese fare in York Place. Inside York Place. 984-3000. **34**

Mono Loco A colorful Cuban-inspired eatery— inside and out. Red-and-green exterior leads to a menu of chips and salsa, crab meat quesadilla, spiced-up seafood and savory meat dishes. 200 W. Water St. 979-0688. **35**

Monsoon Thai and Asian fusion, big lunch buffet. 113 W. Market St. 971-1515. **36**

Mudhouse Sit down and stay a while at this oft-packed coffee house that serves up great java, smoothies and pastries. On Pantops (984-3035), and at Forest Lakes

(973-9966). By the Omni 984-6833. **37**

OXO Top-priced fusion buffered by comfy cushions. 215 W. Water St. 977-8111. **38**

Peking Typical Chinese food, delivery in and around downtown. Now, new special dumplings and lamb dishes. Fourth Street NE 296-6399. **39**

Petit Pois Classic, casual French Bistro Fare from the owner of Fleurie. Name means "little pea." Next to Zocalo at the central place on the Downtown Mall 979-7647. **58**

Rapture Thirtysomethings gather at this hip, dark bar for drinks and fiery billiard games. Food as basic as burgers, as exotic as Thai. 303 E. Main St. 293-9526. **40**

Revolutionary Soup Charlottesville's answer to the Soup Nazi. Nine revolving soups are just the ticket for a quick lunch. Don't forget to try the grilled cheese. 108 Second St. 296-SOUP. **41**

Sal's Caffe Italia Italian served under the stars. If it's chilly, you can take it indoors and gaze at a full Mediterranean mural... or your date. Next to Paramount Theater. 295-8484. **42**

South Street Brewery They make their own beer, have a wild brick-and-beam interior, and are packed to the doors on \$2 Tuesdays. 106 W. South St. 293-6550. **43**

Splendor's Spiffy up-scale gelato emporium on the Mall. Close your eyes while you savor the creamy smooth gelatos and sorbets and you'll swear you're in Venezia 317 E. Main St 296-8555. **44**

Tastings No whining about the wine selection here: 125 wines available by the glass and half-glass, and more than 2,000 available by the bottle. Under the parking deck. Patio soon to open. 502 E. Market St. 293-3663. **46**

The Flat New walk-up window behind the Jefferson Theater for savory and sweet crepes, locally roasted coffee, and world-class hot chocolate. 111-A E. Water St. 978-FLAT. **49**

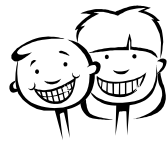
The Nook Enjoy Mom's home cooking at this family-owned Downtown Mall institution known for breakfasts all day and the famous "Nookburger." Open for dinners too, but delivery is just for the lunch hour. Closed for remodeling until September. 415 E. Main St. 295-6665. **50**

The Pointe American with some French and Italian influences. New chef in Omni restaurant. Omni Hotel. 971-5500. **51**

Timberlake's Old fashioned in every good sense of the word: chicken salad on toast, milkshakes, lemonade. An honest-to-goodness time machine. 322 E. Main. 295-9155. **57**

Twisted Branch Tea Bazaar Good vegetarian specials as well as a wide variety of teas. With live music and more, this cozy den on the Mall is a fave with students. 414 E. Main St. on the Mall. 293-9947. **52**

Zocalo Latin specialties (and great mojitos) at the Central Place on the Downtown Mall. Late night revelers pack the house. 201 E. Main Suite E 977-4944. **54**



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