

Eating out

This list of recommended restaurants has been compiled by the editors of Star Week and Star Week's restaurant columnist, Charles Obardorf. Restaurants are listed in three price ranges, the prices shown indicating the average cost of dinner for two. In addition, the restaurants are rated with one to five stars, a rating which reflects the excellence of food and service within the price range indicated.

\$5-\$10

The Bagel:

285 College St., 923-0781. A home away from home for anyone with a Dan Greenberg-style Jewish mother. A few weeks ago, one of the waitresses actually broke into tears when a customer didn't finish his borscht. It's true, it's true. From 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

The Coffee Mill (in Lothian Mews):

96 Bloor St. West, 923-7800. Any day now, the outside tables will emerge and Toronto's richest flirting ground will again be in full flower. The open-face sandwiches are delicious but slightly over-priced. However, the fringe benefits make all the

difference. Daily; 10:30 a.m. to midnight. Friday and Saturday; till 1 a.m. Sunday; 3 p.m. to midnight. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Colonnade Gourmet Shop:

131 Bloor St. West, 922-8771. It's not truly a restaurant, since you can only get things to go. However, the sandwiches are among the best in town, especially the Salisbury steak sandwich. Once again, it's worth remembering that there are lots of places nearby where you can have an instant picnic—the benches in front of the Royal Ontario Museum, for example—and the weather is warming up. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday; 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; till 7:30. Closed Sundays. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Continental Restaurant:

521 Bloor St. West, 531-5872. Since being "discovered," the Continental has been jam-packed on the weekends and many weeknights too. However, if it's an off-hour, try your luck for some of the least expensive, most filling Hungarian food in town. Daily; 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Country Style Restaurant:

450 Bloor St. West, 537-1745. Just across from the Continental (see preceding item) and offering virtually the same menu at similar low prices, Country Style

is suffering the same "discovery" pang. It's slightly less atmospheric and slightly less busy, but only slightly. Daily; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Ginza Restaurant:

577 Bay St., 368-9368. It looks like a typical greasy spoon catering to the bus station crowd, but it serves Japanese dishes in addition to all the cheeseburgers to go. Ambiance and some of the clientele aren't terribly appetizing but the price (\$1.55 for sukuyaki donburi) is right. Daily; 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Grumbles:

71 Jarvis St., 368-0796. European peasant food amid British antiques. The Ploughman's Lunch is a hunk of French bread, some cheddar cheese, butter and apple. Imagine yourself surrounded by sheep. Better yet, come in the evening when there's entertainment from some of the better local folk musicians. Tuesday to Saturday; from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday; from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. with entertainment. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Nippon Restaurant:

252 Spadina Ave., 363-9744. Mostly very inexpensive Japanese cuisine but with some curious accommodations to Toronto

tastes like the Tokyo Pizza and Osaka Dog. A most unpretentious converted sandwich shop. Weekdays; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; till 11 p.m. Sunday; 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Closed Mondays. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Lido's:

662 Yonge St., 923-3222 or 921-6446. The favorite spaghetti-house-pizzeria among the downtown studentry because of its consistently high-quality food at reasonable prices. It's also handy to at least seven movie theatres and the waiters are civil to bearded and blue-jeaned types. The portions aren't enormous, but most Italian restaurants overdo that anyway. Daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Louis' Coffee Shop and Variety Store:

585 Church St., 922-6572. It's 4 a.m. and the baby is crying and daddy forgot to get milk last night. Off you go to Greasy Louis' as it's known to its friends. It's an all-night source for food staples. It looks like a restaurant, too—right? Don't you believe it. Buy some bread and peanut butter and go home and make a sandwich. Always open. No credit cards.

Switzers:

322 Spadina Ave., 364-2309. Corned beef, pastrami, baby beef, roast beef—all cured on the premises and served with love and not a little laughter. If Switzer runs a wild show behind the cold counter at lunchtime which alone is worth the price of admission. Daily; 6 a.m. to midnight. Saturday; till 1 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. to midnight. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

Tel Aviv Restaurant:

440 Spadina Ave., 921-1917. Israeli specialties like chumus with tacheena (ground chick peas and a sesame-lemon-garlic sauce) that's scooped up in those big hollowed round breads and fallafel, another vegetarian dish that tastes remarkably like meat. Unusual tastes and at very low cost. Daily; 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. No credit cards. ☆☆☆

\$10-\$20

Le Bistro (at Nepentha):

Yorkville Ave. at Old York Lane, 920-7705. Despite all its problems—and it has them—Le Bistro still makes the best Reuben sandwich and one of the best cheeseburgers in town. And it's still the only place where you can have a drink and really watch a passing parade of pedestrians—and hot pants are coming. Daily; noon to 2 a.m. Closed Mondays. Credit Cards:



Grumbles: European peasant delicacies and British antiques.