



Date Night

SUMMER ROMANCE IN KATY

By Gabrielle Browne



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Brad and Cheryl Baggaley at
La Madeleine



The dating world can be tough. Finding creative date night experiences shouldn't add to the stress of a new relationship. And are there even restaurants that don't offer crayons at the door? Parents and singles desiring a good meal with a romantic atmosphere deserve a restaurant close to home. Romantic dinners and quiet restaurants are available right in our community, but you better call ahead and reserve a table because these are some of Katy's hottest spots.

Bistro 829

829 S. Mason Rd.
281-646-0829

Looking for a great wine to pair with a gourmet meal? Bistro 829 offers both in a subdued atmosphere. "We offer a quiet, more adult-themed restaurant. We have a great wine list and a gourmet menu," says owner Jeff Miller.

With over 100 different wine selections and popular menu items, couples are able to enjoy conversation over a delicious meal. For patrons unsure of which wine suits the palate, dates can share a wine flight of three to four different varieties. Looking for live music in Katy? On Friday and Saturday, patrons can loosen up as jazz music accompanies good food.

"We went to Bistro 829 for Valentine's Day. It was wonderful," says Katy resident Emily Pritchett. "It was reasonably priced, and the atmosphere was great. Not too loud for conversation at the table. We've been there before, on a normal night, and it was just as good. I think it is my favorite restaurant in Katy, especially for date night."

Perry's Steakhouse

23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
281-347-3600

Perry's Steakhouse is an upscale haven for steak lovers. Brandon Quinn, assistant general manager, says, "We serve over 25 different wines strictly by the glass, and we have over 550 bottles."

Perry's offers diners live piano music, a front and back patio, and quiet romantic evenings. Those desiring to visit with a date in a more casual atmosphere will appreciate Perry's Social Hours, which provide a chance to enjoy appetizers and wine in a happy hour setting.

"One of our most popular menu items for dates is our Symphony Kabob. It consists of two medallions of filet mignon, two char-grilled shrimp, and a four oz. lobster tail. All of this is suspended 12 inches off of a plate on a skewer," Quinn explains.

★ BURGERS ★ WINGS ★ TACOS ★ WRAPS ★ QUESADILLAS ★ PORK CHOPS ★

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★ CHICKEN FRIED STEAK ★ TAQUITOS ★ SEAFOOD ★ FRIED JALAPENOS ★

Antonia's

2001 Katy Mills Blvd #A
281-644-6000

Located in the Wal-Mart shopping plaza adjacent to Katy Mills, Antonia's understated exterior doesn't reveal the delicious cuisine and romantic ambiance awaiting patrons inside. Since its opening, Antonia's has quickly gained a reputation as the place in Katy to enjoy authentic Italian cuisine at a reasonable price. From Lobster Ravioli to Bolognese, to Cacciatore, most entrées at Antonia's range from \$14-\$18. Many couples enjoy sharing a bottle of wine from Antonia's extensive wine list or sipping an espresso after dinner while sharing a delectable dessert. Owner Roberto Rosso comes from a long line of Italian cooks and was a successful restaurateur in the Boston area before moving his family to Katy.



Steven and Kylie Seitz celebrate their first anniversary at Alamo Drafthouse

The Wine Next Door

23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
281-395-4100

The Wine Next Door is a great place to have a date. Located in La Centerra, it provides both wine enthusiasts and amateurs a casual environment to venture into the exciting world of wines. Wine flights, bottles, and glasses are available.



Melanie Medina and Enrique Rojas

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A close-up photograph of three soft-shell tacos on a white plate. The tacos are filled with meat, cheese, and vegetables. Three lime wedges are placed on the plate next to the tacos.

General Manager Justin vanSant says, “The wine flights are great for dates because they’re a surefire conversation starter. Common interests in wines spark common interests in life. New to the menu are desserts and coffee. We also have beer. You don’t have to like wine to stop on in.”

The Wine Next Door is a date destination in itself, but it also hosts weekly tasting events with music. Katy residents can make good use of this local “cellar” to enjoy events such as April’s Texas Wine Ranger Tasting.

Because of its central location, dates can begin or conclude here. The Artisan cheese plate with a glass of wine may be the perfect start to an evening, and after a movie, dates can come to enjoy the chocolate pie with their 10-year Tawny port.

La Madeleine

23322 Mercantile Pkwy
281-395-2888

Those wishing to step into the French countryside can conclude their night out at la Madeleine. The restaurant has cozy nooks and crannies for quiet conversation over a glass of wine or a warm coffee drink. Dates can share one of the many French pastries offered. “I love going to La Madeleine for coffee after going to the movies right across the street,” says Katy resident Zachary Browne. **KM**

GABRIELLE BROWNE enjoys exploring cool restaurants with her husband when they can get a babysitter.

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More Date Choices in Katy

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

531 S. Mason Rd.
281-492-6900

If time is tight, the Alamo Drafthouse is the place to go. Besides showing new releases like most theaters, the Alamo has a stocked menu and beer and wine list. Patrons can enjoy the show as they enjoy a delicious meal, or they can simply munch on popcorn and soda. For most showings, no children under age 6 are allowed - perfect for date night. "We're very laid-back and casual. We see a lot of couples, including moms and dads. It's like one-stop shopping," says General Manager Nate Wells.

Katy Miniature Golf and Batting Cages

2482 S Mason Rd.
281-574-3045

Dates can enjoy a game of miniature golf or have a friendly test of skill in the batting cages. Work up an appetite, or work off some calories.

L'AGLIO

22100 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-579-7963

Want to combine forces to create an awesome meal? L'AGLIO hosts both demonstration and hands-on cooking classes. While not specifically for couples, many Katy daters make a class part of their night out. According to owner Sharon Miller, "We have classes where you actually participate in what is cooked. Chinese is the most popular with egg rolls, dumplings, and pot-stickers," she says.

Ritter's Frozen Custard

3427 N. Fry Rd.
281-646-1211

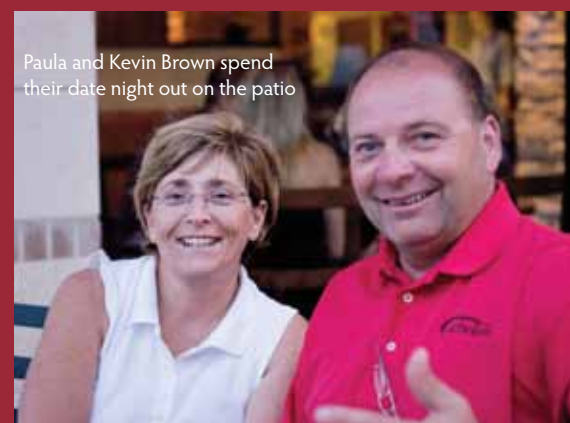
Walk up to the counter at Ritter's and try not to be sweetly overwhelmed with the choices. After a night of dancing, biking, or golfing, sharing a banana split or trying each other's sundaes or frozen ices provides the perfect conclusion to a date. Ritter's also offers hot dogs and a place to sit and eat outdoors.

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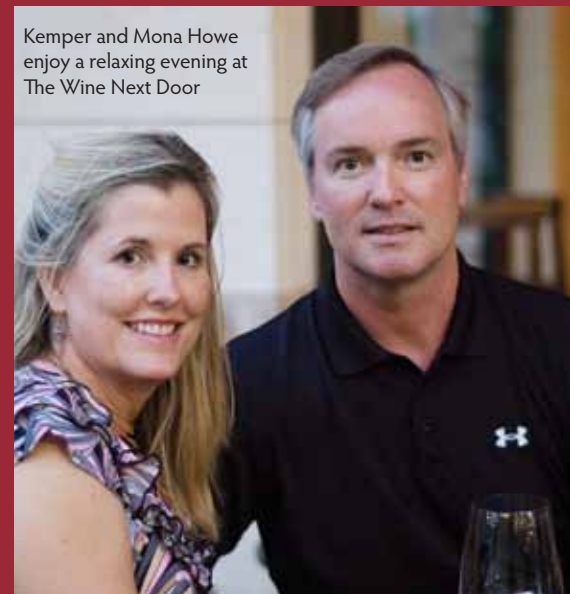
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Paula and Kevin Brown spend their date night out on the patio



Kemper and Mona Howe enjoy a relaxing evening at The Wine Next Door



David and Trish Munson
at Alamo Drafthouse



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