

# Date Nights

Insights to local eateries perfect for couples looking for a night out on the town

Written by Cherri Northcutt



3 Olives offers many savory starters including mussels steamed in garlic white-wine sauce



Perhaps one of their most famous dishes, Perry's pork chop is carved tableside



Many Katy couples find the ambiance and lively atmosphere of Bonefish Grill in LaCenterra to be an ideal place for a date night



We all remember the lyrics from *Grease*: "Summer days driftin' away, to oh oh the summer nights." As the longer days of summer fade slowly into twilight, Katy couples have the perfect setting for a little romance. Even long-married moms and dads need an occasional night out. Lucky for us, Katy is home to a number of romantic spots, and a few more are within easy driving distance. So grab your sweetie and get ready to hit the town. Here are some ideas for delightful date-night destinations.

### 3 Olives

22764 Westheimer Pkwy.  
832-437-4062

For a romantic Italian dinner, 3 Olives in the Villagio Town Center is a beautiful choice. Owners Fauna and Jeff Miller have created a casual ambiance with the feel of an old Italian courtyard. There's soft jazz music and open spaces with windows and balconies. Miller recommends the Roquefort crusted snapper or the osso bucco, a veal shank braised in roma tomatoes and chianti. "Our menu is unique," Miller says. "We sometimes venture out and make adjustments for a more Texas palate, like our southwest fettuccine with roasted peppers, mushrooms, chicken, and cilantro cream sauce."

### Alamo Drafthouse

531 S. Mason Rd.  
281-492-6900

"Why have dinner and a movie, when you can have dinner with a movie?" says Alamo Drafthouse general manager Jason Murphy. "Here, you have the classic date night all wrapped up in one package." Couples can add food and drinks to their movie-going experience with Alamo's full menu of pizza, salads, burgers, appetizers, and more. There's also a wide selection of wines and craft beers available. "What really takes it over the top is our programming," Murphy elaborates. "You can catch the latest flicks or quote and sing along to some of your favorite older movies with a whole theater full of people."



Hasta la Pasta's bruschetta platter will get your meal off to a great start



Finish off your evening with a mouth-watering dessert such as 3 Olive's tiramisu

### *Babin's Seafood House*

21851 Katy Fwy.  
281-829-9200

Babin's brings you the best New Orleans style seafood fresh from the gulf. Their delicious shrimp Lafayette features shrimp stuffed with crab meat and cheese, served with pico de gallo and bacon. Or try the sumptuous Mardi Gras platter with filleted in-house fish and blackened shrimp in a lemon basil cream sauce.

### *Bonefish Grill*

2643 Commercial Center Blvd.  
281-394-5099

General manager Andrew Kostic says, "Whether you're celebrating your first date or your anniversary, Bonefish is a great spot." Couples will appreciate the views of the lake and fountain from the all-glass wall or from the patio. "Even if the restaurant is full of people, with our cozy atmosphere, you'll feel like you're the only two here," Kostic says. He recommends the bang bang shrimp - crispy shrimp in a cream sauce with a spicy kick. Another signature dish is the grilled salmon with warm mango salsa.

### *Chama Gaúcha Brazilian Steakhouse*

5865 Westheimer Rd.  
713-244-9500

Just a short drive from Katy, this Brazilian steakhouse offers couples a dining experience they won't forget. Choice cuts of meat are slow-cooked on rotisseries over an open charcoal fire pit. Waiters then carve your selections tableside. Filet mignon wrapped in bacon is a popular choice. There's also cordeiro - a

seasoned rack of lamb. "The great thing is, it's all you can eat, so you can try a little of everything," says meat lover Steve Hart. "The flavor is amazing, and the service is great."

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### *Drix Restaurant*

1850 S. Mason Rd.  
281-371-2749

This trendy wine bar and grill entered the Katy scene in 2010, offering a variety of great food and drinks. Owners Sid Mounfik and Cassandra Kourradi have put together a perfect date night atmosphere with soft lighting, patio seating, and the sounds of live acoustic guitar to accompany your dining experience. General manager David Penalba recommends some of the chef's own creations. "The beef brochettes have three skewers of angus medallions with grilled apples, bell peppers, red-skinned potatoes, and julienned sautéed vegetables," Penalba says. Kourradi suggests following that up with a chocolate dessert wine from Holland, called Chocovine. "It's sweet, rich, and chocolaty. With every sip you're going to want more."

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### *El Asador*

3750 S. Mason Rd., #100  
832-321-4954

For mouth-watering Mexican food in a classic setting, El Asador is an excellent date destination. They also offer a banquet and meeting room for private get-togethers. Stop by on a Saturday

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night, and their house band "Mensajeros de Amor" will entertain guests in a truly festive atmosphere. Bring your church bulletin with you on Sunday afternoon and get 20% off. Katy parents, Randy and Jessica Owen, enjoy getting away for a steamy plate of fajitas rancheras topped with pepper jack cheese. "We also really like the beef tacos al carbon," Jessica says.

### *Hasta la Pasta*

1450 W. Grand Pkwy. S.

281-392-0045

Katy couples hungry for elegant Italian dining love Hasta la Pasta. Tony and Verna Custer have spent many romantic evenings there. "They specialize in Italian with a southwest flair and often have wine specials," Tony says. Their cannelloni pepe has a unique flavor with ancho chile marinated chicken rolled into the pasta and served with a cilantro-poblano cream sauce.

### *Nikko Sushi*

410 W. Grand Pkwy S., #505

281-395-2808

Sushi lovers will appreciate the elegant, contemporary décor at Nikko Sushi with cozy private booths and a modern open bar. Their menu features a wide variety of steak, seafood, chicken, and sushi so there's something for everyone. The godiva rolls include crabstick, cucumber, and avocado drizzled with honey wasabi. Seafood lovers will enjoy the lobster tail grilled in sake (fermented rice). If you're feeling adventurous, you can try the octopus sashimi.

### *Perry's Steakhouse & Grille*

23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.

281-347-3600

A romantic evening at Perry's includes soft music from their piano bar and a table by the lake on the patio. Katy couple Rob and Kathryn Gilliam celebrate special occasions at Perry's. "The ambiance is lovely," Kathryn shares. "I adore the filet mignon and creamy garlic mashed potatoes." Katy resident Carolyn King enjoys date nights at Perry's with her husband. She loves their famous pork chops, which are smoked and cured in Perry's own spice rub. "They're so thick and juicy," King adds. Another popular choice is the symphony kabob with filet mignon, lobster, and shrimp.

### *Ray's Grill - Gourmet Country*

8502 FM 359

281-533-0099

Ray's Grill in Fulshear is well worth the drive for their gourmet food and eclectic atmosphere. Serving only natural, free-range meats, owner Ray Salti takes pride in cooking from scratch using seasonal, organic ingredients from local farmers and ranchers. "We don't cut on quality by getting frozen ingredients," Salti explains. "We use Kobe beef from Simonton, produce from Cat Springs, free-range eggs from Weimar, and fish from Galveston that we clean and cut right here." The menu changes with the seasons, but one thing you will always find is filet mignon – a customer favorite. For a mid-week date try Ray's steak and lobster special on Wednesdays.



CHERRI NORTHCUTT has loved living in Katy for the last 13 years. She and her husband enjoy having an occasional date night.

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