



Take advantage of sunny summer afternoons and late sunsets, and enjoy al fresco dining in Katy

# Katy Dining Al Fresco Style

Soak in the summer sun at some of Katy's delightful outdoor dining options

*Written by Cherri Northcutt*

*I*t's summertime and the living is easy with warm weather, a slower pace, and a more relaxed atmosphere. One of summer's many pleasures is enjoying some great food and cool drinks on the patio with friends. Dining al fresco is big in Katy, with a number of local eateries offering outdoor dining so you can enjoy the weather while sampling culinary delights.



The sea bass stuffed with shrimp is a popular choice at Bonefish Grill



Juicy Burgers

### Bonefish Grill

2643 Commercial Center Blvd., #300A  
281-394-5099

For delicious seafood, Bonefish Grill really hits the spot. In Katy, Bonefish overlooks the pond at the south end of LaCenterra. "We have a great view of Central Green," says managing partner, Andrew Kostic. "What's better than dining al fresco with a view of the fountain and music playing in the background?" For summertime, Kostic suggests lighter seafood, like the Imperial tilapia topped with their signature lemon butter sauce. Another great choice is the Chilean sea bass. "It pairs well with our fresh mango salsa," he says.

### D'Amico's Italian Market Cafe

2643 Commercial Center Blvd.  
281-769-9682

This family-owned gem is nestled in next to LaCenterra's Central Green Park. Owner Nash D'Amico is proud of their outdoor dining patio. "It's the best seat for concerts. Plus, we have some nice shade and a good breeze going," he says. D'Amico understands that in the summer months, people want lighter fare. He recommends the penne asparagus with tomatoes, garlic, and olive oil. Another favorite is the rolled stuffed eggplant. "It's got spinach, ricotta, and romano cheeses and is served with linguini marinara," describes D'Amico. He suggests that you wash that down with a tall, cool Bellini, and finish your meal with some delicious gelato for dessert.

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### Drix Restaurant and Lounge

1850 S. Mason Rd.  
281-371-2749

Now featuring an indoor playground for kids, Drix is a great place to bring the whole family. Owner Casandra Kourradi says, "We have a beautiful patio with trees and soft lighting in the evening." A summertime favorite at Drix is their many tapas items. "It's finger food to share," Kourradi explains. She also recommends the beef brochettes with blueberry red wine reduction sauce, paired with spinach and artichoke dip, and served on their famous flatbread. "The truffle fries with parmesan are amazing," Kourradi adds.

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### Fish City Grill

23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.  
281-693-3474

Fish City Grill has a unique, casual ambiance that makes for a fun dining experience. Owner René Rai says, "Our patio faces Central Green where there's lots of entertainment. People can even bring their pets to dine with them on the patio." Patron favorites include fish and chips and the crabmeat-stuffed flounder. "It has cream cheese, dill, and our signature seasonings," says Rai. Their unique grilled salmon salad tossed with tortilla matchsticks, fried capers, and tomatoes all on a bed of mixed greens and drizzled with with a ginger soy vinaigrette dressing, is of course a must-try.



Dine al fresco while enjoying fresh pasta at D'Amico's Italian Market Café

Tasty Choices



Oyster nachos deliver a tasty punch at Fish City Grill



Kick it up a notch with fish tacos at Jimmy Changas

### Jimmy Changas

300 Westgreen Blvd.  
832-321-5927

With a cute monkey mascot, brightly colored décor, and an outdoor play place for the little ones - it's a great spot for family dining. New Katy resident Char Perez says, "I love the outdoor patio. I'm from Connecticut, so I enjoy the warm weather here." Perez is a big fan of Jimmy Changas' stacked pork enchiladas. "They are awesome - with poblano cream sauce and sliced avocado." Jimmy Changas' director of marketing, Heather McKeon says, "Jimmy's Jungle play zone is a big draw for families with children, and we have landscaping and a large fountain." She adds that their salads are a popular option during swimsuit season, with fresh ingredients like strawberries and mangos.

### La Madeleine

23322 Mercantile Pkwy.  
281-395-2888

Bonjour! La Madeleine is our very own French sidewalk café right here in Katy. "Our classic chicken salad croissant is a personal summer favorite," says manager Jacqueline O'Reilly. "It goes well with the tomato basil pasta salad and is a perfect summer lunch." O'Reilly recommends the roasted pear and prosciutto salad with pecans, bleu cheese crumbles, and balsamic vinaigrette. She also shares a secret from La Madeleine's head chef, "Crumble our potato galette on top of your salad - it is wonderful."

Try the creamy cordon bleu pasta at La Madeleine



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The ceviche salad at Las Alamedas is cool and refreshing



### Zesty Salads

#### Las Alamedas

23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.  
281-347-3030

Jorge Sneider, owner of Las Alamedas, is proud to bring the food and feeling of Mexico City to Katy. This elegant restaurant is just off the courtyard in LaCenterra. "We have two beautiful patios with fans and misters for hot weather, pergolas, columns, and lovely awnings overlooking the plaza and the fountain." Sneider adds, "The fresh ceviche is superb. We've used the same recipe for 34 years." He also suggests the fajita salad for the summer months, with their cilantro, spinach dressing, and either chicken or beef fajita meat."

#### Lupe Tortilla

703 W. Grand Pkwy. S.  
281-392-2322

There's nothing like sitting outside at Lupe Tortilla with a lime margarita and a sizzling hot plate of fajitas. Elissa Rodriguez, new to the Katy area, is a self-described foodie. She enjoys the fajitas at Lupe Tortilla and loves the carnita tacos. "The corn tortillas were great, and they sure weren't skimpy with the carnitas," Rodriguez says. "There were chunkier pieces of meat rather than the usual shredded pork."

### Spicy Dishes



A sizzling fajita platter from Lupe Tortilla will light up your summer night

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Cool down this summer with a Santa Fe salad from Texas Borders Bar & Grill

### Texas Borders Bar & Grill

20940 Katy Fwy.  
281-578-8785

With a rare blend of Cajun, Mexican, and American cuisine, Texas Borders offers a unique menu to banish the summertime blues. Spend your summer nights on their patio listening to live music and spicing things up with jalapeño stuffed shrimp. "I've been eating at Borders for eight years, and they have the best food in town," says patron Sarah Nichols. "You have to try their queso." A popular summer favorite is the fish tacos with lightly fried catfish, pico de gallo, and topped with a jalapeño ranch sauce.  
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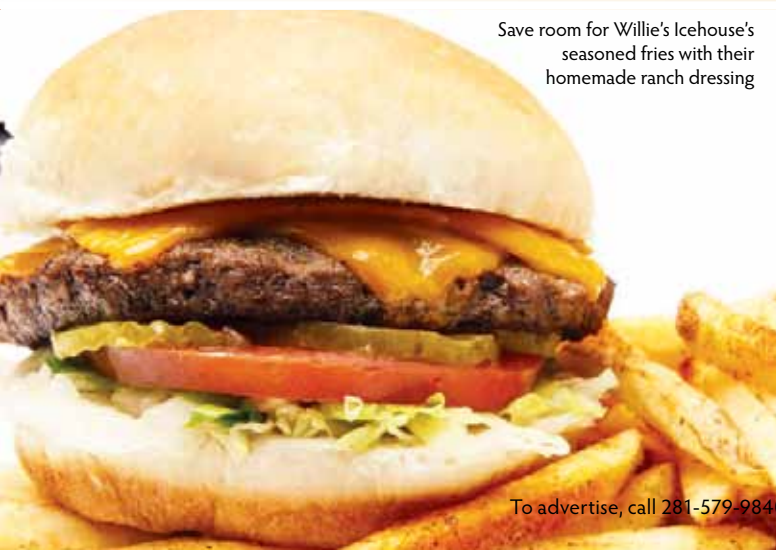
### Willie's Grill and Icehouse

19905 Katy Fwy.  
Houston  
281-492-6700

For traditional, down-home cooking in a fun, laid-back atmosphere, Willie's Ice House is the place to go. Chris Donlan, general manager at Willie's says, "We have three patios, tables with umbrellas, and a sandbox for the kids." Donlan adds, "Outdoor favorites are the chicken tenders, chicken fried steak, and our famous hamburgers." He's partial to their hickory cheddar burger. "It's got grilled onions and Texas-style barbecue sauce." Jessica Owen, a Mayde Creek area mom says, "We love the big juicy burgers. It's a great place for the whole family." **KM**



**CHERRI NORTHCUTT** has lived in Katy for 14 years. She is a big fan of al fresco dining with family and friends.



Save room for Willie's Icehouse's seasoned fries with their homemade ranch dressing

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