



Perfect Pastas

Written by Cherri Northcutt

Warm up this winter with a bowl of delicious eats at these Katy dining establishments

Do the words, “angel hair, linguini, and fettuccine” make your mouth water? When you hear about unlimited pasta bowls, do you get weak in the knees? Then you have a passion for pasta. Take heart, you are not alone. Katy is full of pasta lovers, and there are plenty of local eateries where you can satisfy your cravings. Try out these perfect pasta dishes, and don't forget the Parmesan cheese.



D'Amico's Italian Market Cafe

2643 Commercial Center Blvd.

281-769-9682

All of D'Amico's pastas are made fresh daily in-house. Director of marketing Ashley Bridges has a few recommendations. “The crawfish ravioli is a favorite with crawfish, poblano peppers, green onion, garlic, ricotta and Romano cheeses in a creamy rosa sauce,” she says. Another D'Amico's specialty is the wild mushrooms and walnut tortellini in a white wine lemon butter sauce. Of course, you can't go wrong with a classic. “Our homemade meat lasagna is layered with suga sauce, meat, and ricotta,” Bridges says. Katy mom and preschool teacher Denise Pyron is a big fan of D'Amico's. “I had penne asparagus with chicken and the house salad with a scoop of gelato for dessert,” she shares. “It was delicious, and I can't wait to go back.”

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Babin's Seafood House

21851 Katy Fwy.

281-829-9200

Seafood and pasta are a perfect pairing, and Babin's is known for its delicious Cajun seafood. Corporate executive chef Michael Frietsch says, “Stop by and taste some of our delicious pasta dishes like the Zydeco pasta with blackened chicken, mushrooms, basil, green onions, and tomatoes in a creamy Alfredo sauce served over fettuccine.” Customers are also partial to the Parmesan tilapia with spinach and shrimp served over angel hair pasta with Dimare sauce. Frietsch adds, “Each dish is created from the heart with local ingredients.”

Carrabba's Italian Grill

6501 S. Fry Rd., #600

281-665-1320

Italian cooks have always used wine to enhance and accent the flavors of their favorite dishes. Carrabba's Italian Grill is introducing a new Vino Italiano menu offering flavorful creations using this cooking technique. Matt Gombar, marketing manager for Carrabba's in Katy, suggests the new champagne shrimp and scallop linguine. “We start with pan-seared shrimp and scallops, and add in mushrooms and roasted bell peppers,” Gombar says. “Then we toss it in our champagne cream sauce.” This delicacy is only available during the holiday season. Gombar adds, “It's a Carrabba's favorite inspired by celebrating occasions together with family and friends.”

Antonia's Cucina Italiana

2001 Katy Mills Blvd.

281-644-6000

Antonia's is known for its authentic Italian cuisine. Whitney Peper, a local worship coordinator, studied abroad in Italy in 2004. She says, “Antonia's is the best Italian food I've had since coming back to Texas.” Peper enjoys manicotti and pasta primavera. “They use fresh pasta, not boxed, and their veggies and sauce are homemade.”

One of Babin's Seafood House's decadent dishes



Carrabba's champagne pasta and scallops



Drix Restaurant and Lounge

1850 S. Mason Rd.
281-371-2749

For a truly gourmet experience, you've got to try the food at Drix Restaurant, owned by Sid Mounfik and his wife Casandra Kourradi. "Our chicken piccata is so good," Kourradi says. "The chicken breast is sliced thin and cooked evenly, then added to a pan sauce of lemon juice, white wine, and capers." This is served over pasta and garnished with fresh parsley. "Paired with La Crema chardonnay or your favorite white wine, you're going to love it," she says.

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Hasta La Pasta

1450 W. Grand Pkwy. S.
281-392-0045

This elegant local favorite is sure to please when it comes to scrumptious pasta. Katy mother of two NaKisha Viltz says, "I love the fettucini Alfredo at Hasta La Pasta, especially with grilled chicken." Viltz also appreciates their children's menu. "The kids can order spaghetti, penne pasta, or even chicken tenders," Viltz says. Hasta La Pasta is also famous for their signature dishes, like the salmon Sicily made with grilled Atlantic salmon in a lemon dill sauce, served with angel hair pasta.

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All pasta dishes at Jason's Deli are served with herb foccacia bread



Spaghetti is a staple at most Italian restaurants

Jason's Deli

21953 Katy Fwy.
281-693-3354

Stroll over to your neighborhood deli for a satisfying bowl of pasta. Their chicken pasta primo is topped with natural, grilled chicken breast, tomato-basil sauce, and asiago. They also have traditional options such as chicken Alfredo and penne pasta and meatballs. "I like that their dishes are made with fresh ingredients and healthier options such as whole-grain pasta," says patron Natalie Pena. "They also have free ice cream which makes my daughter happy. Best of all, their pasta dishes are accompanied with warm, herb foccacia bread."

Johnny Carino's

21875 Katy Fwy.
281-398-5646

Johnny Carino's has been a Katy favorite for almost 20 years. Local mom Cathy Connolly says she and her daughter enjoy the homemade 16-layer lasagna at Carino's. "It's so much food," Connolly shares. "We always take some home and have another meal." The dish features layers of pasta, Parmesan, Italian sausage, ricotta, beef, meat sauce, and mozzarella. Another delicious selection is their Lobster ravioli made with Roma tomatoes and spinach in an asiago and lemon basil cream sauce.

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Palio's serves Italian classics such as spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna, and fettuccine Alfredo

Palio's Pizza Café

1025 S. Mason Rd.
281-398-5255

Not just a pizza place, Palio's chefs take pride in their authentic Italian cuisine. Mike Ghazal, manager of Palio's says, "Our chicken Milano is made fresh with succulent shrimp and artichoke hearts on top of a cheesy chicken breast, tossed with spinach, and served with fettuccine Alfredo." This mouthwatering choice is sure to keep you warm this winter.

Rocco's Italian Restaurant

966 S. Fry Rd.
281-828-1191

Rocco Ottaviano has been cooking up Italian favorites since 1959. Originally from Southern Italy, he opened his first restaurant in New York bringing his culinary expertise to the area in 2000. The linguini with clam sauce is a customer favorite. "I start with a base of garlic and olive oil," Ottaviano says. "Then I add Italian spices and baby clams sautéed in white wine, which I put over the pasta with fresh parsley and basil." It can also be served with tomato sauce. Another dish to try is the chicken Parmigiana with pasta. "It's a breaded chicken breast topped with melted cheese and served with tomato sauce," Ottaviano says. "It's good with angel hair pasta or spaghetti on the side."

Sapore Ristorante

6734 Westheimer Lakes N.
281-394-5999

Sapore opened in 2013 and offers authentic Italian recipes with a taste from Tuscany. Working mom Carolyn King enjoys nights out with her husband, and Sapore's is their preferred date night spot. "I love the piccata di pollo," King says. "The caper lemon sauce is just delicious, and I have penne pasta on the side." **KM**



Palio's Pizza Café's chicken Milano is topped with shrimp and artichoke hearts

The pesto pasta at La Madeleine is topped with pesto cream sauce, tomatoes, and balsamic chicken or shrimp



Photo by Brian Hilson Photography

More *Pasta* Places

Try these other well-known eateries for delicious pasta entrees

- 3 Olives
- Black Walnut Café
- DaVinci Ristorante Italiano
- La Madeleine
- Olive Garden
- Pane e Vino Trattoria and Pizzeria
- Panera Bread
- Rosa's Pizza

CHERRI NORTHCUTT and her family have enjoyed restaurants in Katy for more than 14 years. Pasta is a family favorite.

With pesto, olive oil, sun-dried tomatoes, Kalamata olives, artichokes, garlic, and Marie cheese, the vegetarian pasta is a must-try at Black Walnut Café



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