



SOUPS

Dishes that will warm your insides
and keep you cozy all season

Written by Cherri Northcutt

The leaves are turning and there is a chill in the air. It's finally time to pull the sweaters out of their bin and break out your super cute boots. When winter's here, nothing warms you up quite like a steaming hot bowl of delicious soup. Whether it's rich and creamy or a savory broth, Katy offers no shortage of flavorful, hearty soups to tempt your taste buds.

Bagel Café

631 S. Mason Rd. | 281-646-7474

This locally owned bagel shop is a great place for breakfast or lunch and has a charming, homey atmosphere. Owner Michelle Goulder, is proud to serve fresh baked bagels and unique sandwich creations. The soups are top-notch too. Goulder says, "In December we offer our lobster bisque, with a cream base and flavorful seasonings." She also recommends the loaded baked potato soup or the mushroom brie. "Our mushroom and brie soup is a creamy beef broth with roasted mushrooms and brie cheese served with bagel chips and dip. It makes a very filling lunch."

Black Walnut Café

23233 Cinco Ranch Blvd. | 281-371-2233

Black Walnut Café's soups are made fresh daily and served with garlic bread. The chicken tortilla is a favorite with its tomato base, vegetables, avocado, chicken, tortilla strips, and habaero to add a little spice. "Their potato bacon is my favorite," says Denise Rivera, Katy mom of two. "It's creamy, delicious, and perfect when it's cold outside." The dish combines house potatoes, red onions, cheddar cheese, peppered bacon, and scallions. While you're there, don't forget to try the vegetarian black walnut zuppa. The roasted vegetables simmered in tomato broth is a delightful pairing with a crisp salad.

El Jarrito Mexican Restaurant

21724 Highland Knolls Dr. | 281-579-8844

Katyites have a passion for good Mexican food and El Jarrito delivers. Kenyatta Davis, a Katy mother of three, enjoys their tortilla soup. "I love the chicken and it's just the right amount of spicy," she says. Another delicious option is the Caldo de Rez, a hearty broth with beef shank, tomatoes, and onions.



Rich
**TOMATO
BASIL**

Salata Katy's tomato basil soup



Creamy
**CHICKEN
GNOCCHI**

Chicken gnocchi from Olive Garden Italian Restaurant



Tangy
**BEEF
NOODLE
SOUP**

Pho Bamboo's pho tai soup



Spicy
**SEAFOOD
GUMBO**

Orleans Seafood Kitchen's seafood gumbo



Hearty
**ZUPPA
TOSCANA**

Olive Garden Restaurant's Zuppa toscana



Flavorful
**TORTILLA
SOUP**

Black Walnut Cafe's tortilla soup

Mi Pueblito Colombian Restaurant

402 W. Grand Pkwy. S. | 281-665-8690

See ad on page 149

Sample the flavors of Colombia at Mi Pueblito. "We have some excellent soups for the wintertime," says owner Oscar Velasquez. "A very popular soup from Bogota is Ajiaco, a chicken and potato soup, served with rice and avocado." Velasquez also recommends the hearty Sancocho soups. "They are flavorful stews and you can have your choice of baked chicken, catfish, or ox tail served with rice, salad, and ripe plantain or a corn patty," he says. The catfish Sancocho comes with coconut milk. The chicken or ox tail is cooked with plantain, potato, cassava, and corn on the cob.

Orleans Seafood Kitchen

20940 Katy Fwy. | 281-646-0700

Orleans Seafood Kitchen is famous for their excellent Cajun recipes, and that includes their made-from-scratch gumbo. Choose from seafood or chicken and sausage gumbo, each with a hint of spice. "All of our soups are made from their very own stock to provide a foundation of flavor that's unique to each soup," says president Chance Comstock. "The broth for the seafood gumbo is infused with crabmeat, shrimp, and crawfish tails," Comstock shares. Another great choice is the creamy crawfish bisque. "When the temperature starts to drop, we like

to offer the bisque," Comstock adds. "It's made in the classic style with crawfish-flavored broth, real cream, and crawfish tails."

Panera Bread

23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. | 281-395-6100

19502 Katy Fwy., Houston | 281-398-6444

There are two locations in Katy where you can get not only a bowl of soup, but soup served in a bread bowl. Katyite Ashley Boggs is a fan of Panera's broccoli and cheddar soup. "It's so deliciously cheesy and warm, and the broccoli stays crisp, not soggy," Boggs says. The turkey chili at Panera is another great choice. It's all natural and blends turkey, beans, vegetables, and spices, perfect for a winter's day.

Pho Bamboo

1230 N. Mason Rd. | 281-717-4230

See ad on page 121

Pho Bamboo offers over 20 varieties of authentic beef and chicken soups prepared fresh and served with cilantro and onions. "The Vietnamese udon soup is my absolute favorite," says Kaitlyn Castro, a frequent patron. "It includes pork, crab, and shrimp." Another favorite is pho ga, a chicken noodle soup. If you are searching for something to warm your palate, try the bun bo hue, a hue-style spicy vermicelli soup with beef and pork.

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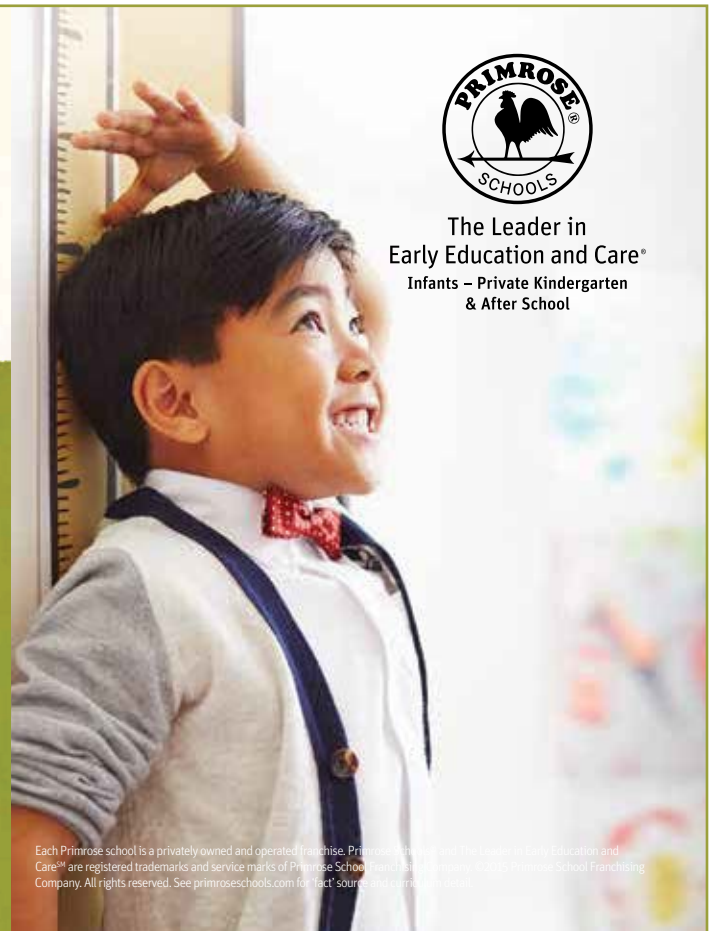
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Salata Katy

1230 N. Mason Rd. | 281-394-9292

See ad on page 73

It's tempting to fill up on their fresh salad ingredients, but you will definitely want to save room for Salata's amazing soups as well. "The tomato basil at Salata is the freshest ever," says Katy diner Bailey Pledger. "The herbs and spices are perfect." Salata also offers broccoli soup and tortilla soup, all served with bread. "They even give you a choice of adding chicken or seafood to your soup," Pledger says. "I like the variety of seasoned, grilled chicken they have."

Texas Borders Bar & Grill

20940 Katy Fwy. | 281-578-8785

See ad on page 59

Kellie Messer, owner of Texas Borders Bar & Grill, is proud to serve foods from all around Texas. "Our number one soup is the homemade gumbo," Messer says. "It's my mother's recipe." Chicken and andouille sausage form the base for the gumbo, rice is added, and then topped with a spicy bowl of shrimp. The tortilla soup at Texas Borders is thicker than what you'll find elsewhere. "We puree tortillas and add that in to thicken the soup," Messer says. "Then we add cilantro and Mexican seasonings." Tortilla strips and grated cheese on top complete this spicy bowl of deliciousness. **KM**

CHERRI NORTHCUTT is a freelance journalist in Katy. She loves dining out with friends and family and enjoys potato soup or a hot bowl of chili on a cold day.

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SOUPS IN KATY

- 🍷 Cheddar's Casual Cafe - Tortilla
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