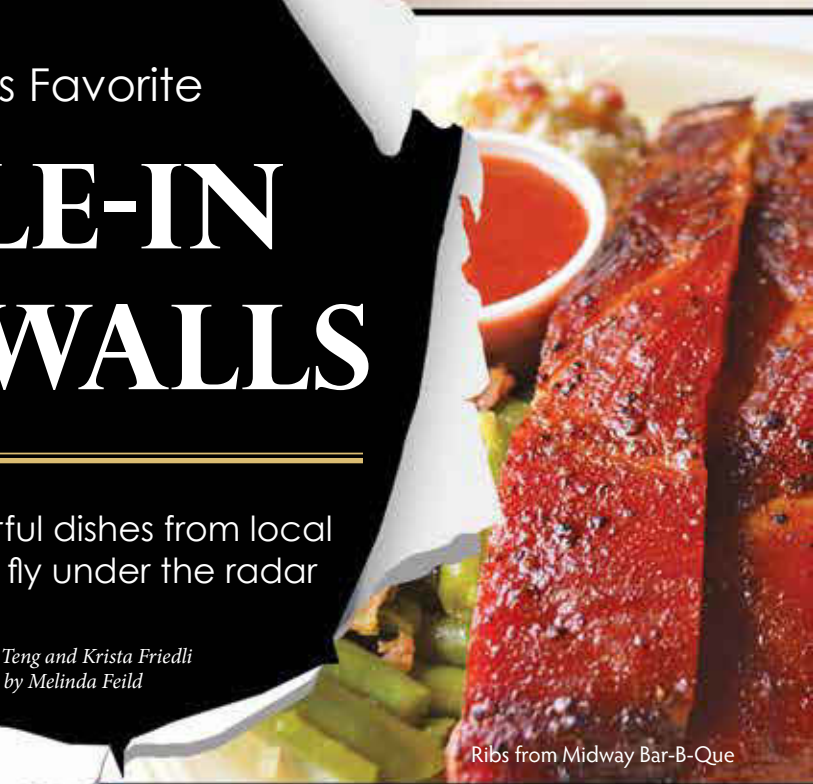


Crab cakes from 5th Street Italian Kitchen

Snappy's breakfast plate with pork chops and eggs



Katy's Favorite

HOLE-IN-THE-WALLS

Discover wonderful dishes from local restaurants that fly under the radar

*Written by Wendy Teng and Krista Friedli
Photography by Melinda Feild*

Pork belly at The Cellar Door

Ribs from Midway Bar-B-Que

Las Mananitas Katy combo plate

Rosa's Pizza Ristorante Italiano's meat ravioli



Katy has so many eating options that it is likely some of these secret tasty spots go unnoticed. We dug up the best local eateries that fly under the radar in different areas around Katy. From mom and pops to authentic cuisines, after a bite from one of these hidden gems, you are going to want to spread the word.

5th Street Italian Kitchen

5608 5th St. | 281-371-3030
5thstreetitaliankitchen.com

This cozy, secret spot in Historic Katy is located in a two-story house, turned Italian restaurant. They offer a variety of traditional meals. Favorites include fettuccine Alfredo, manicotti, shrimp piccata, and shrimp diavolo. For a quick and delicious lunch, stop by and build your own pizza. The signature 5th Street stone-cooked sweet pizza is made with almonds, coconut, marshmallow, Nutella, and cinnamon with chocolate drizzle.

Bagel Café

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

This café offers a variety of bagels from plain to jalapeño cheddar with a broad selection of cream cheese flavors, breakfast options, and delicious coffee. Stop by for lunch and enjoy a sandwich and the soup of the day. They also have an assortment of pastries and smoothies that will satisfy any sweet tooth. Seasonal bagels like pumpkin and gingerbread are treats that you will crave.

The Cellar Door

829 S. Mason Rd. | 281-599-3303
cellardoorkaty.com

Tucked away off Mason Road, The Cellar Door is a fun place to have a glass of wine with friends or your spouse. Pair a glass of wine with a meat and cheese plate or signature flatbreads. Enjoy a tasty selection of gourmet burgers, sliders, pastas, and family-style sides. Ethnic dishes such as Mediterranean hummus, empanadas, and fish and chips are also a hit at this hidden Katy favorite. On the weekends enjoy jazz music and an open mic night.

Da Vinci Ristorante Italiano

6455 S. Fry Rd. | 281-392-2115

This Italian restaurant with its romantic ambiance is a well-kept Katy secret. They offer a tasty selection of Italian dishes for an intimate dinner date or a family dining experience in an elegant setting. The artistic presentation of various dishes are aesthetically appealing and make for a fun evening. The chef is also open to preparing dishes upon guest's requests if ingredients are available.

Ephesus Mediterranean Grill

510 S. Mason Rd. | 281-391-4777
ephesusgrill.com

If you're craving an authentic Mediterranean dish, Ephesus Mediterranean Grill is the place to go. Ethnic Turkish starters, entrées, kabobs, and desserts are served at this secret spot. There are 24 great selections of kabob combinations available, and house specialties include stuffed cabbage rolls, vegetable stew, and chicken with cream.

Kurry Walah

1830 S. Mason Rd. | 832-437-3800
kurrywalah.com

Traditional non-vegetarian and vegetarian Indian cuisines are prepared with daily fresh ground spices at this restaurant. The weekday lunch special combo offers your choice of curry, dal, rice, half of a naan, and salad. More than 30 curries are available. Don't keep this secret from your friends who have been searching for a new Indian food restaurant in Katy.

Las Mananitas

803 S. Mason Rd. | 281-492-7463
lasmananitasmexicanrestaurant.com

Mexican food made from their family recipes is served for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at Las Mananitas. Breakfast specialties such as tacos de barbacoa, chilaquiles, enchiladas, and eggs are served over the weekend from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Happy hours are from Monday to Friday 3 to 7 p.m., and there are plenty of margaritas to offer.

Midway Bar-B-Que

6025 Hwy. Blvd. | 281-391-2830
katybbq.com

Katy's Midway Bar-B-Que plates are a hit with their pork, turkey, and sausage options. Brisket, spare ribs, fried steak, and the catfish dinner are favorites at this classic Katy gem. Katyites have been raving about Midway Bar-B-Que for years, so if you haven't tried it you have to give it a shot! Live entertainment occurs every Friday and Saturday from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Original Marini's Empanada House

10001 Westheimer Rd. | 713-266-2729
theoriginalmarinisempanadahouse.com

This Argentinian-themed restaurant offers a variety of different styles of empanadas including savory meat, cheese, vegetarian, and even dessert empanadas. Patrons will have to visit multiple times in order to try all the empanada variations available. With creative flavor combinations like the Hippy Argentino which includes diced salami, sautéed onions, and raisins; and the dessert Dulce de Leche, these empanadas will leave your palate totally satisfied.

Rosa's Pizza Ristorante Italiano



510 S. Mason Rd. | 281-392-3500
rosaspizzeriatx.com

Pizza, calzone, and subs are on the menu for customers looking for a more casual meal, although traditional meals like fettuccine Alfredo and chicken parmigiana are also available.

Snappy's



5803 Highway Blvd. | 281-391-8163
snappyskatytx.com

Located in Historic Katy for over 14 years, this family owned café offers reasonably priced breakfast and lunch for Katy patrons. The expansive menu offers something for everyone ranging from breakfast, hamburgers, Greek entrées, sandwiches, soup, to salad. Some of the menu dish options have Katy-inspired names such as the hungry tiger special omelet. Ask any Historic Katy native, you haven't had breakfast until you've tried Snappy's!

Tacos Y Tortas Adrian



1603 N. Westgreen Blvd. | 281-578-0086
tacosadrian.com

It's easy to overlook this delicious taco eatery, but that would be a huge mistake. They offer an array of authentic tacos







The Original Marini's Empanada House has a variety of tasty dessert and savory empanadas

with flavorful meats such as shredded beef and grilled steak, tortas, and breakfast plates, all with the freshest ingredients. Grab a la carte options such as gorditas or quesadillas and prepare to be blown away. KM

WENDY TENG is a freelance writer who likes to try new restaurants and sharing the experience with friends and family.

Restaurant Price Key

-  Inexpensive (under \$10)
-  Moderate (\$12 - \$15)
-  A Little Pricy (\$16 - \$20)
-  Pricy (\$20+)

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