

# Discovering the authentic tastes of Italy close to home

Written by Cherri Northcutt and Mary Hogan Select Photography by Suzi Issa





If you're looking for a mouthwatering meal the whole family will love, you can't go wrong with pizza. Hot, cheesy, and dripping with zesty sauce, pizza is a real crowd-pleaser. Katy is home to a number of local pizzerias, each with unique variations on this Italian classic. Whether you crave thin crust, deep dish, New York style, Chicago style, or feel like trying something new, these area restaurants will leave your taste buds tingling.

### **Bolli Brother's Pizza**

2944 S. Mason Rd. 281-392-8257

Houston natives Mark and Kevin Bollinger opened this family-friendly pizzeria in 2002 and serve up a variety of tasty pizzas and cheesecakes. The Texas cheeseburger pizza is a Katy favorite with ground beef, bacon, red onions, jalapenos, cheddar cheese, and mozzarella. Melanie Aman, a Katy mother of two, enjoys the Hollywood pizza. "It's chicken pizza, with sun-dried tomatoes, bacon, feta cheese, artichoke hearts, and spinach," she shares, adding, "It's all the things women like on their pizza." Bolli Brother's also has fresh, unbaked pizza dough perfect for families who want to make pizza together at home.

### **Brother's Pizzeria**

1029 Hwy. 6 N. 281-398-4040 A favorite hangout in the Mayde Creek area, this family-owned restaurant offers a little taste of the Big Apple. "It's great New York style pizza," says local teacher James Daniel. The Brother's special comes with pepperoni, hamburger, Canadian bacon, mushrooms, onions, black olives, and green peppers. You can also build your own pizza with a variety of toppings, including feta cheese, spinach, chicken, pineapple, salami, garlic, jalapeno, and anchovies. Families can dine in or enjoy pizzas to-go.

### Candelari's Pizzeria

6825 S. Fry Rd. 281-395-6746

Candelari's began as a sausage company back in 1993, before the founders decided to open a restaurant. Now, the pizzeria is the only place to get a taste of their homemade Italian sausages. One of the most popular selections, the T-Rex pizza is topped with ground sirloin, two kinds of sausage, pepperoni, and Canadian bacon. General manager Brian Smith says one of his favorites is the Margherita pizza, topped with olive oil, basil, and roma tomatoes. "It's definitely not a fast food pizza," he says.

### **DoubleDave's Pizzaworks**

1650 S. Mason Rd. 281-391-3283

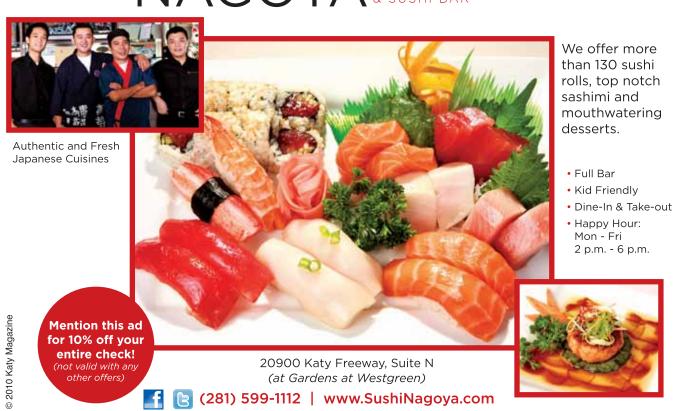
With a daily lunch buffet, DoubleDave's has become a family favorite







# NAGOYA JAPANESE RESTAURANT & SUSHI BAR



for Katy pizza lovers. They are famous for taking buffet pizza requests and for their chocolate chip dessert pizza. Manager Colin Senior shares, "Our most popular varieties are the buffalo chicken and the meateater's." The buffalo chicken pizza combines spicy wing sauce, ranch dressing, chicken, and mozzarella, while the meateater is topped with bacon, ham, pepperoni, sausage, and smoked provolone. Senior also recommends DoubleDave's Stromboli. "It's cheese and spinach wrapped in hand-tossed dough," he explains.

### Fuzzy's Pizza

613 S. Mason Rd. 281-579-0100

Fuzzy's Pizza takes pride in its fresh ingredients and homemade tomato sauce, and to Katy dad Brett Champagne, that pride comes through in their dishes. "Fuzzy's pizza is the best!" he shares. Specialty pizzas include the Napolitan pizza with alfredo sauce, mozzarella, chicken, broccoli, zucchini, and mushrooms. There's also a President Bush pizza, topped with artichoke hearts, pepperoni, Canadian bacon, Italian sausage, green pepper, onions, mushrooms, and black olives.

### Mazzei's Gourmet Pizza

6868 S. Mason Rd. 281-579-1677

Handed down from generation to generation, Mazzei's recipes come straight from southern Italy. Manager William Yee says, "The Arrivederci is by far our most popular pizza. It's got sun-dried tomato pesto sauce, olive oil, chicken, spinach, feta cheese, buffalo mozzarella, and a Parmesan crust." Katy mom Antoinette Boulet shares, "We like to get delivery, and the kids always ask for Mazzei's pepperoni [pizza]. It's always good, and their ingredients are very fresh."

### Palio's Pizza Café

918 S. Fry Rd. 281-398-5255 1450 W. Grand Pkwy. S. 281-392-1212

With two locations in Katy, Palio's has become a popular spot for families craving pizza. Katy mom Molly Elliott enjoys dining in with family and friends. Her favorite dish is named Molly's pizza coincidentally and comes with chicken, spinach, artichokes, and feta cheese. The Elliott family also enjoys Grace's pizza, with alfredo sauce, roasted chicken, spinach, mushrooms, mozzarella, and cheddar. "Palio's has a wide variety of vegetable options," shares Elliott, adding, "I get tired of [just] the standard toppings."

### Pizza Bella

1306 Pin Oak Rd.

281-693-3880

At Pizza Bella, you can choose from a wide variety of delicious pizzas, like the BBQ chicken pizza, which comes with onions, roasted peppers, barbecue sauce, cheddar, and whole-milk mozzarella. For an Italian classic with an Asian twist, try the Thai pizza topped with spicy peanut sauce, teriyaki chicken, sweet peppers, sesame seeds, green onions, and fresh mint. Families on the go can pick up a par-baked pizza to take home and heat up later.

### Pizza Deaux

8945 S. Fry Rd. 281-391-2222

Located near Seven Lakes High School, Pizza Deaux offers dishes with a Cajun flair. With recipes inspired by Lafayette, LA, each pizza starts with a thin cracker crust. Manager Andrew Lewis says, "You won't find anything like it." He recommends the Lagniappe Pizza. "It's not a pizza, it's a commitment," he says. "It has a mountain of toppings, with lots of meat, shrimp, jalapenos, mushrooms, olives, and peppers." Other customer favorites include the Rajun Cajun with crumbled sausage, spices, pepperoni, and jalapenos, and the Mardi Gras with hamburger meat, sausage,



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### Rosa's Pizza Ristorante Italiano 510 S. Mason Rd. 281-392-3500

A neighborhood favorite, Rosa's features authentic and contemporary Italian dishes. A house specialty, their Napoli pizza is layered with tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, ham, basil, and olive oil. A 16-by-16-inch, square, Italian-style pizza, their deep-dish Sicilian brings the authentic flavors of Italy to life. It comes in two varieties, including cheese or the special, topped with Canadian bacon, onion, sausage, hamburger meat, pepperoni, mushrooms, bell peppers, and black olives.

### Russo's New York Pizzeria

20900L Katy Fwy. 281-599-7492 24210 Westheimer Pkwy., #100 281-392-5323

Russo's dishes up the bold flavors of New York using time-honored family pizza recipes baked to perfection in a brick oven. Delve into a thick slice of their Manhattan special for the authentic Italian flavors of thinly sliced hot Italian sausage, bell peppers, onions, mozzarella cheese, and sauce. Many of their pizzas include plenty of fresh veggies baked right in, like the heart healthy veggie pizza, with spinach, artichoke hearts, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions, basil, mozzarella, extra virgin olive oil, and garlic sauce.



### The Pizza Shoppe

5815C Franz Rd. 281-547-8899

One of Katy's newest pizzerias, The Pizza Shoppe dishes up many delicious takes on an Italian classic. One of their most popular pizzas, the Tiger Paw combines pepperoni, mushrooms, Italian sausage, and green peppers with a catchy name Katy Tiger fans will love. For families looking to branch out, the Austin pizza layers your favorite wing sauce over chicken and mozzarella for a zesty, bold flavor. KM

CHERRI NORTHCUTT is a freelance writer and has lived in Katy for 11 years with her husband and two daughters.

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