

A combination fajita platter at Victor's Casa Garcia



# Hot 'N Spicy Dining



The team at Texas Borders Bar & Grill



Las Alamedas has a warm and inviting atmosphere

## Discovering Katy's Fiery and Flavorful Cuisine

Written by Megan Oldag and Mary Hogan

If you're looking to step out of the ordinary, Katy's hot and spicy restaurants serve up fiery favorites sure to add a kick to your palate. As the winter temperatures begin to drop this season, warm up with flavorful fare from some of these local hot spots.

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### Babaloo International Café & Bar

Villagio Town Center  
22756 Westheimer Pkwy.  
281-391-4167

Babaloo Café features international cuisine in a relaxed bistro atmosphere. Although their menu is constantly changing based on the availability of fresh ingredients, one thing always stays the same: good food. Babaloo has a selection of tapas ranging from sautéed calamari and chicken lettuce wraps to their cozze gratinate, or baked stuffed mussels. The menu also includes a selection of traditional dishes with a tasty twist, including sandwiches, soups, and gourmet sliders.

### Berryhill Baja Grill & Cantina

Villagio Town Center  
22756 Westheimer Pkwy.  
281-392-8400

For Mexican favorites with a Baja twist, try Berryhill Baja Grill and Cantina. The menu features tacos, hand-rolled tamales, and fish tacos, one of their top sellers. The fish tacos can be prepared either grilled or fried, and are served in a corn tortilla with cabbage and a cream Baja sauce. Complement any menu selection with a trip to the restaurant's salsa bar, full of zesty selections. Whether you want to catch up with friends on the patio or just grab a quick bite, the self-service style of Berryhill lets diners enjoy their meals at their own pace.

### Las Alamedas

La Centerra  
23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Ste. F140  
281-347-3030

Discover the timeless cuisine of Mexico prepared with passion by talented chefs at Las Alamedas' new Katy location. The gourmet Mexican restaurant first opened its doors in Houston in 1980 and takes pride in preparing delectable dishes in a relaxing atmosphere. Born and raised in Mexico City, owner Jorge Sneider knows a thing or two about authentic Mexican dishes, including the restaurant's award-winning paella and their popular ceviche and caldo loco, a spicy soup with chicken and rice. Sophisticated entrees like the red snapper ponchartrain provide the perfect fare for an evening out. Diners can top off a flavorful meal with Las Alamedas' mouth-watering desserts like tres leches cake, vanilla flan, and crepes. The restaurant's warm ambiance, soft lighting, and colorful walls graced with unique artwork make for a pleasurable experience. "The interior is like what you would feel in a fine Mexican hacienda," says Sneider.

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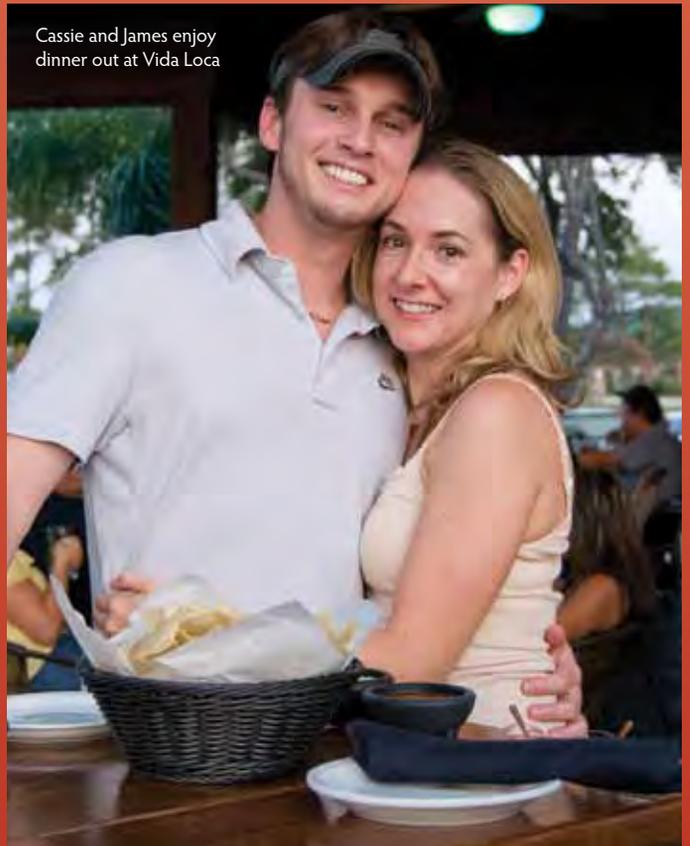


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Cassie and James enjoy  
dinner out at Vida Loca



Texas Borders dishes up  
flavorful southwest favorites

## Pollo Bravo

890 Mason Rd.  
281-392-0030

Pollo Bravo specializes in a 25-spice rotisserie chicken, transformed into a variety of menu options including chicken with avocado salad and shredded chicken with your choice of sides. The restaurant's cuisine is a unique blend of Mexican and Peruvian cooking. Although chicken is the main component on the menu, Pollo Bravo has ventured out to offer ceviche and a smothered shrimp platter. After a spicy meal, cool off with their traditional Peruvian dessert, Lucuma, a flan-flavored ice cream that has become a bestseller. The restaurant's reasonable prices and quick service will definitely appeal to busy Katy families.

## Swampy's Cajun Shack

406 Grand Pkwy. S.  
281-347-2847

Swampy's Cajun Shack is the place to be for authentic Louisiana cooking. Their extensive menu features favorites like shrimp, crab boulettes, jambalaya, po' boys, and gumbo. For the more adventurous, the restaurant dishes up their swamp-raised gator bites! Swampy's offers a variety of vegetarian alternatives, as well as oyster specials on their patio. Kids will love the outdoor picnic tables and their meals served on a Frisbee, and parents will love the quality cooking and reasonable prices.

## Texas Borders Bar & Grill

The Gardens at Westgreen  
20940H Katy Fwy.  
281-578-8785

The aptly named Texas Borders dishes up all-American cuisine, Cajun cooking, Mexican fare, and even some seafood in its new location. Every Texas border is represented in this culinary hodgepodge, which makes for an easy choice for even the most indecisive of diners. Their vast menu includes spicy homemade dishes from southwest burgers and fiery wings to zesty quesadillas and Cajun favorites. Texas Borders is a prime destination for a little bit of everything, and fun for the whole family.

## Thai Spice

1420 S. Mason Rd., #170  
281-574-1500

Thai Spice offers traditional spicy Thai entrees for the pepper enthusiast and more mild selections for patrons new to Thai cuisine. The restaurant's authentic menu features Thai favorites, such as the spicy noodle dish, pad Thai and a buffet with a selection of flavorful entrees from the menu. Kids always eat free, so bring the whole family.

## Udipi Cafe

557A South Mason Rd.  
281-829-6100

Udipi is a south India coastal town, and just like its namesake, Katy's Udipi Café offers light vegetarian dishes with tropical flavors. The restaurant offers a full menu of traditional Indian favorites, such as medhu vadas, or fried, donut-shaped fritters made from lentils, and vegetable samosas, which is similar to the Tex-Mex empanada, with Indian ingredients and spices mixed in. Udipi's buffet features most of the delicious items on the menu and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are new to Indian cuisine, Udipi Café's buffet is the perfect place to start!



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Live music spices up the atmosphere at Vida Loca

## Victor's Casa Garcia

1939 N. Fry Rd.  
281-578-6450

Just off of I-10 on the busy N. Fry strip, Victor's Casa Garcia is serving up all of your Tex-Mex favorites. From chimichangas, enchiladas, and fajitas to their Codornices plate of two marinated and grilled quails. Victor's Casa Garcia also offers a kids' menu, daily lunch specials, and a playground the kids will love. Breakfast is served every Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with migas, papas, chorizo con huevos, and signature omelets on the menu. Any day of the week, Victor's Casa Garcia is sure to satisfy with tasty dishes.

## Vida Loca Mexican Bar & Grill

21810 Kingsland Blvd.  
281-600-9600

Owned and operated by three Katy, Taylor, and Cinco Ranch high school alumni, Vida Loca specializes in traditional Tex-Mex cuisine. Spicy favorites include enchiladas, quesadillas, and tacos. The Acapulco shrimp is a flavorful house specialty, consisting of grilled jumbo shrimp wrapped in bacon, topped with ranchero sauce and Monterey jack cheese. Vida Loca also has a playground to keep the kids occupied, but with food like this, they may want to stay at the table.

## Wild Wing Cafe

The Gardens at Westgreen  
20940A Katy Fwy.  
281-647-9453

As its name implies, Wild Wing Café specializes in buffalo-style hot wings. Their wings range from virgin, with a mild kick, to braveheart, which they describe as hot enough to lose your head over. Wild Wing Café also serves up well-seasoned sandwiches, wraps, burgers, and puds, along with soups, salads, and Mexican favorites. No matter what your preference is, there is always something delicious to discover. KM



Katy kids enjoy the playground at Vida Loca



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