

Our Suggestions for Island Dining

With over 150 restaurants on Grand Cayman, ranging from simple jerk chicken stands, pizza and hamburger outlets (no McDonalds franchise, though), to dining rooms featuring five-star *haute cuisine*, there's a spot for virtually every budget, and every culinary whim. Gourmets won't be disappointed. Needless to say, the following is in no way an attempt to list all restaurants on Grand Cayman that are worthy of mention, nor a listing of paid advertisements. The few, selected restaurants below are simply those that have become our favourites over the years and that we feel offer consistent satisfaction and good value -- considering their pretensions, price, service, quality of ingredients and preparation. A couple are listed simply because they're convenient for guests. There's no particular order to the list below, and no attempt here to rank one against the other. For a more comprehensive list of Cayman restaurants, you might want to check out www.caymangoodtaste.com.



Tel: (345) 945-1815

Fax: (345) 945-2081

E-mail: info@brasseriecayman.com

Website: www.brasseriecayman.com

Price: \$\$\$

The Brasserie restaurant, hidden in Cricket Square (George Town), is a sleeper. In spite of the French name, the menu is eclectic, and includes affordable snack dishes, weekly "theme nights", and full, classic dishes. However difficult to categorize, the cuisine at The Brasserie is imaginative, and a sure bet for a pleasant surprise, for lunch or dinner, is the daily fish/seafood specials -- and Monday evening's three-course meal for two with a bottle of wine, at CI\$89 per couple, is a great deal. No culinary sampling of the island is complete without at least one visit. The tasteful "plantation" decor is a pleasant visual surprise, as well. Closed on weekends.



Tel: (345) 947-2047

Fax: (345) 947-2324

E-mail: captaing@candw.ky

Website: www.lighthouse.ky

Price: \$\$\$\$

 Turtle Nest Discount

Just added pizza to the menu, from their new brick oven. It's an affordable alternative, and the pizza is one of the best on the island! Situated in Breakers, just a couple of minutes east of Turtle Nest Inn & Condos, this oceanfront landmark is open for lunch and dinner, and boasts a very professional serving staff, and a first-class wine selection. The Lighthouse offers a creative menu of local seafood, continental and Italian dishes, a screened patio, a bar area, and dining on their dock, right over the water!



Tel: (345) 947-2700

Fax: (345) 947-2701

E-mail: tukka@candw.ky

Website: www.tukka.ky

Price: \$\$\$\$

In place of Portofino, in Gun Bay (just past East End, about 13 miles east of Turtle Nest Inn), this new restaurant offers a few Australian dishes, but many more familiar Caribbean meat and seafood appetizers and full course meals. Chef and owner Ron Hargrave and his capable staff assure you of intriguing dishes, and fresh fish from village fishermen. The setting is on the water and secluded, and the service informal yet generally efficient. Lunch and dinner are served, as well as breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and a Sunday brunch. Ever eat a hamburger with fried egg and a slice of beet? What about kangaroo or crocodile?



Tel: (345) 640-0000

Fax: none

E-mail: info@dukescayman.com

Website: www.dukescayman.com

Price: \$\$

This rib and seafood shack replaced Neptune's restaurant and is conveniently located a short walk opposite Seven Mile public beach. There's a bar and tables outdoor, and open-door inside seating. They offer a varied selection of land and seafood options, including steampots (comparable to Joe's Crab Shack in North America), "fall-off-the-bone" ribs, and a number of filling hot sandwiches. Their poutine is probably the best on the island, especially with the pulled pork option. There's also very affordable wine, and an inexpensive all-you-can-eat buffet three evenings a week.



Tel: (345) 947-2525

Fax: (345) 946-2525

E-mail: millie.calder@yahoo.com

Website: www.alfrescobymillie.com

Price: \$\$

Whether for lunch or dinner, at least one visit to this terrific and very affordable ocean front terrace in West Bay is a must! The very extensive menu offers something for everyone, from appetizers, sandwiches and pasta to full meat and seafood dishes. The pizza is one of the island's best, and there's a decent selection of wine and drinks. Very limited inside seating (in case of rain), but much less pleasant than a table overlooking the Caribbean. Great food at bargain prices and attentive service by Millie and her staff. Well worth the trip, weather permitting!



Tel: (345) 947-7278

Fax: none

E-mail: manager@bombaychopsticks.ky

Website: www.bombaychopsticks.ky

Price: \$\$

This little gem in East End, with a few tables inside and outside, is worth the detour. Talented Chef Remy, formerly of The Lighthouse, offers an original assortment of Indian, Chinese and local fare, and will pretty much modify any dish to your needs or liking. An excellent and unique hot and sour soup, along with spring rolls and chicken satay are among the many appetizers. Main courses include a local catch of the day, seafood curry, Manchurian chicken, chicken tikka masala, and a Szechuan chicken dish. There's a small wine list, and prices are reasonable. Open daily for dinner between 5:00pm and 10:00pm



Tel: (345) 324-5860

Fax: none

E-mail: info@grapetreecafe.ky

Website: www.grapetreecafe.ky

Price: \$

If you're staying at the Inn -- or just passing through Bodden Town -- this spot is a must! Fresh fish and the trimmings expertly fried before your eyes, just 200' down the beach from the Inn. Only open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and on public Holidays. You can bring your own wine and beer and enjoy the delicious food at a table under one of the thatched gazebos on the beach. Located just behind Lorna's Texaco station, the convenience store, and small liquor outlet. The choice of fish typically includes snapper, mahi, wahoo, and grouper, or whatever the local fishermen catch, at very reasonable prices!



Tel: (345) 947-2517

Fax: (345) 947-6435

E-mail: info@southcoastbar.com

Website: www.southcoastbar.com

Price: \$\$

Located in Breakers and just a few minutes east of Turtle Nest Inn & Condos, this oceanfront restaurant offers a relaxing atmosphere and very good local cuisine at affordable prices. It's in fact just a couple of hundred feet before the Lighthouse restaurant. This is one of few restaurants with tables right on the beach, literally at the water's edge, illuminated by a gas torch permanently installed in the water!. There's also an indoor dining room and bar. They have a delicious seared tuna with wakame salad among their appetizers; tasty lobster tail, juicy pork chops, as well as a couple of very good pasta dishes among their entrees, along with a decent selection of wine and beer.

Over the Edge

Restaurant and bar

Tel: (345) 947-9568

Fax: (345) 947-9514

E-mail: info@over-theedge.com

Website: www.over-theedge.com

Price: \$\$

Located on the waterfront in North Side, this lively and informal beachfront restaurant and bar serves good and reasonably priced Caribbean and Cayman fare. Known for delicious fresh fish dishes, Over the Edge is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, offers take-out meals and a seaside terrace. The menu and staff are the same as The Edge, which regrettably closed its doors in Bodden Town at the end of September 2003. Service is very informal -- and quite slow at times -- but this is a fun spot for when you're not in a rush. A good "pit-stop" on your way to or from Rum Point and Cayman Kai.

Sea Side Paradise

Tel: (345) 323-4239

Fax: none

E-mail: none

Website: none

Price: \$

Located just a couple of hundred feet east of the Inn, a short walk down the beach, Sea Side Paradise offers local dishes, simply served but expertly prepared. Laid-back dining on their beachfront terrace, a varying menu, and very affordable prices. Bring your own wine or beer, and enjoy fried chicken, jerk dishes, fresh fish, lobster, and a number of local and oriental specials among the chef's daily selection. You're dressed just fine the way you are, but bring cash. No credit cards accepted.



Tel: (345) 946-7678

Fax: (345) 946-7679

E-mail: info@dolcevita.ky

Website: www.dolcevita.ky

Price: \$\$\$

Formerly in the West Shore Center, along Seven Mile Beach, this excellent Italian dining spot has moved to 147 North Church Street (upper-floor), along the George Town waterfront. Features an outdoor terrace and an indoor dining room. There's a full lunch and dinner menu, with soups, salads, cold and hot appetizers, pasta, meat, fish and seafood dishes, including great salads and bruschetta, excellent pasta, and a superb eggplant parmigiana. Also a full assortment of pizza, baked in a wood-burning oven. Dishes are all "made from scratch", with fresh ingredients. Still a favourite of ours -- Italian cuisine as it should be!! Open six days a week, closed Sunday.



Tel: (345) 640-6433

Fax: (345) 946-6433

E-mail: robin@michaelsgenuine.com

Website: www.michaelsgenuine.com

Price: \$\$

Many dining spots at Camana Bay, but this is our favourite, and ideal for dinner after taking in a movie at the neighbouring cinema. The menu may seem a little confusing to novices ("small dishes", "medium dishes", "large dishes", "extra-large dishes", "sides", "snacks", and "cheese of the week"), but the choice is intriguing, original and extensive. Crispy hominy (in "snacks"), to share at the table during your appetizers, is a must, as are their homemade fries – big enough for two and the best on the island. The wood oven pizza (again, enough for two) is excellent, as is the grilled Niman Ranch shortrib. There's also a fresh catch of the day – along with an impressive wine list and home-baked bread -- all served indoors or out. Sourcing fresh, local ingredients is a priority for the chefs, while service is typically fast, courteous and efficient.



Tel: (345) 946-7049

Fax: (345) 946-7059

E-mail: info@morgansharbour.com

Website: www.morgansharbour.com

Price: \$\$\$

Morgans Harbour Restaurant, located in West Bay, just next door to Calypso Grill, is another of our favourites, featuring a varied menu with something for every appetite, from sandwiches and an excellent Jerk burger with melted brie, to an original chicken schnitzel and the freshest of fish caught by local fishermen -- all excellently prepared and at very reasonable prices. Excluding drinks, it's easy to get away with a filling meal at around CI\$20, on the seaside terrace or indoors, both in an intimate and informal atmosphere. Daily from 11:00am to 10:00pm, bar open from 10:00am to midnight. Located 16.7 miles from the Inn & Condos.



Tel: (345) 949-8210

Fax: none

E-mail: info@italiankitchencayman.com

Website: www.italiankitchencayman.com

Price: \$\$

Located in the Morritt's Center in the Gun Bay area (just past East End, about 13 miles east of Turtle Nest Inn & Condos) this Italian restaurant has authentic and affordable cuisine and atmosphere, with a couple of outdoor tables. Their woodstone oven pizzas are a delicious alternative to fast-food pizza and their garlic knots are a unique appetizer. This is the only Italian option to the east of the Inn, and definitely worth the trip. Open only for dinner and take-out, Tuesday through Sunday.



Tel: (345) 947.5555

Fax: none

E-mail: agavegrill@gmail.com

Website: www.agave.ky

Price: \$\$

This small and welcoming Mexican cantina is off the beaten track, but well worth a visit! Terrific and varied appetizers, sides, and numerous main courses including burritos, enchiladas, tacos, quesadillas, tomas and rellenos, all at bargain prices! Open for lunch and dinner from Monday through Saturday, with a small number of tables (a couple outside) in a cozy and comfortable atmosphere, but no reservations. The beef enchiladas platter at CI\$9.75 is delicious, with real shredded beef (not ground meat), as is the chicken tacos platter (also CI\$9.75) and the side called ragout of sweet peppers and onions (CI\$3.50). The platters are a meal unto themselves, with refried beans, rice, salsa, etc.



Tel: (345) 946-6239

Fax: none

E-mail: info@cafe.ky

Website: www.cafe.ky

Price: \$

Small and quaint restaurant in downtown George Town for those who want to enjoy deliciously modern and healthy food prepared responsibly (no animal products are used). Delicious breakfasts, excellent black bean tacos and Jerk tofu (island bowl), and a different soup every day. Terrific chocolate chip cookies and caramel brownies. They also make their own ice cream with coconut milk. Open for breakfast and lunch Monday to Friday (9am to 4 pm), and Saturday (from 10am to 3pm). A paradise for vegans, but an enjoyable and intriguing alternative for all.



Tel: (345) 947-4892

Fax: none

E-mail: info@qtyachtclub.com

Website: www.barcadere.com/qtyc

Price: \$\$\$

Conveniently located about a two-minute drive from the airport, this restaurant is a perfect "last meal stop" for guests with afternoon or evening flights. Along with the mouthwatering warm fritters with butter you'll get as your complimentary appetizer, their lunch/dinner menu includes a tasty selection of pastas, sandwiches, and pizza just to name a few. Their Cracked Conch appetizer is addictive with the three different spicy dipping sauces that it comes with. The Oxtail Shepherd's Pie entree is a unique twist to this long-standing recipe. If a Mojito is your drink of choice, you'll be intrigued by their Mango-Ginger or Dirty Coconut flavor options. It doesn't hurt that this restaurant boasts a relaxing, marina/sea view or that they have an outdoor pool for the kids either.



Tel: (345) 949-2482

Fax: none

E-mail: info@agua.ky

Website: www.agua.ky

Price: \$\$\$\$

Located in Galleria Plaza, along Seven Mile Beach, this spacious restaurant includes a bar, lounge, dining room, a very pleasant outdoor terrace, and plenty of available parking out front. It's open from 11:30am to 1:00am daily, with food served all day long. Very good selection of wine, and a menu which includes ceviches, fish, pasta and meat, with a number of Peruvian dishes and daily specials. Excellent service and a very flexible response to any particular request for modifying a dish. Excellent salads and a herb-crusted rack of lamb. But fish is the specialty here.



Tel: (345) 949-1119

Fax: (345) 949-1114

E-mail: papa@candw.ky

Website: www.pappagallo.ky

Price: \$\$\$\$

Top-notch, Northern Italian cuisine with a Caribbean flair, and an extensive wine selection, expertly served in your choice of two large rooms (one with superb macaws and parrots, the other overlooking the lagoon) or on their screened, outdoor terrace. Pappagallo is situated in Barkers (West Bay), at the extreme northern tip of Grand Cayman, so count on about a 45-minute drive from Turtle Nest Inn. But the restaurant's location, in a bird sanctuary beside a natural lake, like its thatched roof, is what makes dining here an exotic experience.



Tel: (345)947-8899

Fax: none

E-mail: kurtskorner345@gmail.com

Website: none

Price: \$

This little local dining spot features only outdoor tables, but all under a canvass cover in case of rain. It's located on Frank Sound Road, just before the junction with North Side Road leading to Rum Point, and run by well-known local politician and able chef, Kurt Tibbetts. The menu includes appetizers, sandwiches, burgers, pasta, Cayman specialties and locally caught fish and seafood, along with a vegetarian special and a kids' menu. Very limited choice of alcohol, so you might want to bring your own wine. Simple, but tasty and inexpensive fare served seven days a week from 11:00am to 10:00pm.

Rankin's Jerk Centre

Tel: (345) 947-3155

Fax: none

E-mail: none

Website: none

Price: \$

Probably the best dining value on Grand Cayman - less than a mile west from Turtle Nest Inn & Condos, in Bodden Town. Very tasty jerk chicken or pork. A quarter chicken, complete with rice and beans, spicy sauce and "festival" (Jamaican corn bread), for only CI\$5.00! A large portion is CI\$7.00. A nice walk, if you eat at a picnic table on their lawn. Otherwise, take the car, carry it back to the Inn, pop open a bottle of wine and enjoy. Other local dishes may include oxtail stew, baked chicken, BBQ ribs, etc. If you're coming to Grand Cayman to "go native" -- or to keep costs down -- Rankin's Jerk Centre is a must! Closed on Sunday.

eats cafe

Tel: (345) 949-3287

Fax: (345) 945-5749

E-mail: eat@eats.ky

Website: www.eats.ky/eats.html

Price: \$\$

Eats, in the Falls Shopping Centre (opposite the Westin Hotel), consists of a more family-oriented room and a "bar"-type room, and offers take-out, good and substantial American breakfast, lunch, as well as reasonably priced dinners. Very popular for snacks, sandwiches, burgers and a range of full meals. No coleslaw but, if you're into avoiding meat, try the tasty, oriental-style, vegetarian stir fry, served in small or large portions.



Tel: (345) 949-9333

Fax: (345) 949-0635

E-mail: info@grandoldhouse.com

Website: www.grandoldhouse.com

Price: \$\$\$\$

Good food and service at a superb, oceanfront location in South Sound. The Grand Old House seems to present itself as a spot for "special occasions", but it's not any more costly than other upscale dining spots -- and more worthy of its pretensions than many. It's a big operation, with dining areas inside and out, and some of its marketing may suggest a "tourist trap", but the food -- continental and Caribbean fare -- is consistently delicious, the service attentive and efficient, the choice of wine extensive, and the ambience most romantic. Check it out "on the cheap" at Thursday evening's pasta buffet -- CI\$10, per person, with a wide choice of pasta/sauce combos.



Tel: (345) 945-6358
Fax: (345) 945-6360
E-mail: info@royalpalmscayman.com
Website: www.royalpalmscayman.com
Price: \$\$\$\$

Royal Palms boasts original, expertly-prepared cuisine, both for appetizers and main courses, as well as top-notch service and an extensive wine list. Excellent fish dishes (like their renowned sea bass), lamb and steak, and a couple of delicious pasta dishes --and the daily specials are always worth a try. A delicious and intriguing appetizer is the roasted garlic with black olive tapenade and flavored oils. Try for a table on the casual, outdoor garden terrace, or right above the beach bar -- directly on Seven Mile Beach -- and a good spot for live music and dancing.



Tel: (345) 946-2815
Fax: (345) 946-2816
E-mail: none
Website: none
Price: \$\$\$

Excellent Indian cuisine, across from Seven Mile Beach (next to The Strand shopping centre) and open for lunch and dinner, with an inexpensive lunchtime buffet. The food here compares well with Indian fare we've tried in several countries. There are delicious vegetable samosas and "aloo dosa" for appetizers, superb tandoori lamb chops (not to be missed) and chicken tikka kebab for main dishes, and very tasty vegetable sides like "aloo gobi" (sauteed cauliflower and potatoes), "masala dal fry" (lentil stew), and the mixed vegetable "korma". Main dishes are all served with safran rice, raita, pappadum and Indian "pickles", and are quite reasonably priced.



Tel: (345) 945-3484
Fax: (345) 945-3743
E-mail: none
Website: www.ragazzi.ky
Price: \$\$\$

Ristorante Ragazzi Pizzeria is located in Buckingham Square Centre, along West Bay Road. Although the menu features a wide variety of fish, seafood and pasta -- and there's a selection of daily specials (presented on a portable blackboard) -- Ragazzi's claim to fame are the many varieties of gourmet pizza baked in a wood-burning brick oven, one of the best pizzas on the island. There's also an excellent wine list, including a number of choices sold by the glass. Just across the parking lot, the owners of Ragazzi have opened Azzurro, a cafe pasticceria offering homemade pastries, Italian coffee, sandwiches and salads.



Tel: (345) 945-2290
Fax: (345) 623-2290
E-mail: none
Website: none
Price: \$

Very good and affordable chicken, roasted fresh in a tropical wood rotisserie, right in the front window. Chicken! Chicken!, in the West Shore Center, across from Seven Mile Beach, also offers a large selection of vegetables and salads as side dishes. Apparently, much better for your health than southern-fried chicken, with substantially less fat. Eat in or take out, you can buy just the chicken (quarter, half or whole), or a full meal, with corn bread and choice of two sides. A tempting, fast-food option -- healthier than most!



Tel: (345) 945-1915
Fax: (345) 945-1916
E-mail: queries@icoafinefoods.com
Website: www.icoafinefoods.com
Price: \$\$\$

This gem located in Seven Mile Shops, along West Bay Road, is primarily a deli and bakery for snacks and take-out, with the best bread and croissants on the island. But, it also boasts a dining room and a couple of outdoor tables for delicious breakfasts and lunches, including the very best Eggs Benedict we've ever tasted. Excellent pastries, chocolates and good salads, as well as homemade juices and a number of healthy dishes.



Tel: (345) 949-6141
Fax: (345) 945-7697
E-mail: none
Website: none
Price: \$\$\$

The best Thai cuisine on Grand Cayman is located in Elizabethan Square, in downtown George Town. Superb dishes that compare favourably with the best Thai food we've eaten anywhere. A limited but decent wine selection. To start, there are very good chicken satay skewers, a small cucumber salad, egg rolls and cold spring rolls. Among main courses, try the spicy basil chicken, the crispy garlic beef, the ginger fish, as well as the vegetarian Pad Thai noodles. A combination of clear rice noodles, tofu, bean sprouts, cabbage, scallions and a dash of peanuts.



Tel: (345) 623-4550
Fax: (345) 945-3743
E-mail: dine@luca.ky
Website: www.luca.ky
Price: \$\$\$\$

Luca, recently opened by the owners of Ragazzi on the ground-floor of the Caribbean Club, an upscale condo complex along West Bay Road, offers an impressive selection of Italian/Continental dishes in a very sleek interior. There's a snazzy bar section and several outdoor tables overlooking a pool and Seven Mile Beach. Very good service and a superb wine list compliment the cuisine that already ranks among the island's best. Recently tried dishes were the prosciutto e melone appetizer, the spinach salad, and as main courses, beef stroganoff pappardelle and the yellowfin tuna -- all excellent.



Tel: (345) 947-2782
Fax: (345) 946-7112
E-mail: cimboco@cimboco.com
Website: www.cimboco.com
Price: \$\$

This delightful and affordable restaurant, just off West Bay Road, is located next door to the old cinema (now closed), and pretty close to Grand Cayman's new one in Camana Bay. Ideal for an after-movie snack or meal, seven days a week. Good caesar salad and bruschetta among starters, and very good pizza, pasta and some imaginative sandwiches including an excellent (and filling) Caribbean roti, or rolled sandwich, with jerk chicken and curried veggies in a fire-roasted flat bread. Dine inside or on the outdoor terrace -- or order "to go".



Tel: (345)949-0168
Fax: (345)949-1168
E-mail: woknroll@woknroll.ky
Website: www.woknroll.ky
Price: \$

This is a very small take-out spot located along Seven Mile Beach, with a table or two outdoors. What's neat is that they'll deliver to virtually anywhere on the island – for a price of course (CI\$25 to Bodden Town; minimum order, CI\$20). On offer is varied menu of dishes from several Asian countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Mongolia, Vietnam and from the Chinese province of Szechuan. Included are many familiar dishes like hot and sour soup, spring rolls, lo mein, pad thai, tofu dishes, etc., along with many others for the more adventurous.



Tel: (345) 947-7333

Fax: (345) 949-7660

E-mail: none

Website: www.pizzahut.com

Price: \$

If you're from the USA or Canada, no introduction to this fast-food outlet is needed. Decent pizza, wings, etc., delivered right to your apartment or condo door here at the Inn, typically in less than 45 minutes. Located in Savannah, pick-up on your way back from town is also convenient. If you're in the mood to stay put for an evening of watching a movie or TV, here's a cheap and easy dinner option, probably leaving you with leftovers for tomorrow's lunch. Delivery seven days a week.



Tel: (345) 947-1188

Fax: (345) 949-1911

E-mail: none

Website: www.dominos.com

Price: \$

If you're from the USA or Canada, no introduction to this fast-food outlet is needed. Decent pizza, wings, etc., delivered right to your apartment or condo door here at the Inn, typically in less than 45 minutes. Located in Savannah, pick-up on your way back from town is also convenient. If you're in the mood to stay put for an evening of watching a movie or TV, here's a cheap and easy dinner option, probably leaving you with leftovers for tomorrow's lunch. Delivery seven days a week.



Tel: 345-943-7171

Fax: none

E-mail: none

Website: www.papajohns.ky

Price: \$

If you're from the USA or Canada, no introduction to this fast-food outlet is needed. Decent pizza, wings, etc., delivered right to your apartment or condo door here at the Inn, typically in less than 45 minutes. Located in Savannah, pick-up on your way back from town is also convenient. If you're in the mood to stay put for an evening of watching a movie or TV, here's a cheap and easy dinner option, probably leaving you with leftovers for tomorrow's lunch. Delivery seven days a week.