

## Dave's Guide to Downtown Toronto

Don't use your car unless absolutely necessary as parking will cost between \$15 and \$20 for an evening. There is a wonderful and extensive mass transit system in Toronto, consisting of buses, streetcars, and the subway (TTC). Adult fare is \$2.75 per person and \$1.75 for seniors. If you buy tokens or senior tickets in lots of 10 at one of the subway fare collectors underground, the cost is reduced to \$22.50 and \$15.00 for the tokens or tickets, respectively, which are good on a bus, street-car, or train. If you need to transfer, get a transfer ticket when you get on a bus or streetcar, or in the case of the subway, get a transfer at the station where you got on. The transfer tickets are good for an unlimited number of transfers. The subway system consists of two lines, the Yonge/University line and the Bloor line. The Yonge/University line travels north, south along Yonge Street and University Avenue and goes as far south as Front Street at Union Station. There are stations for both lines at Union Station, King Street, Queen Street, Dundas Street, College Street, Wellesley and Bloor (The names of the stations on the University line are Union, St. Andrew, Osgoode, St. Patrick, Queen's Park, Museum, and St. George). The Bloor line travels east, west and connects to the Yonge line at Bloor Street and to the University Line at St. George. Note that Bloor Street changes its name to The Danforth east of Sherbourne. Walking in the downtown area is quite safe and you will encounter many people walking or bicycling. Please note that the pubs or restaurants along upper Church or Jarvis Streets (between Gerrard and Bloor) are mostly gay or lesbian bars.

Below is a list of downtown restaurants. Unless noted otherwise, Lynne and/or I have eaten there at least once. Reservations may be necessary for larger groups, especially in the downtown area. With the exception of those on The Danforth, all are within a 20 minute walk from the Sheraton. Alternatively, a taxi or public transport can be used. Note that taxis are quite plentiful in downtown Toronto. Three of the restaurants on the list are located on Baldwin Street, a wonderful little street with lots of restaurants with patios and a wonderful atmosphere. Elm Street is also the home to many restaurants, some of which are quite good. There are lots of little cafes that serve very good food on King Street, just west of University Avenue, and there are several pubs and restaurants on Queen Street between University and Spadina. The Historic Distillery District also has some very nice restaurants and pubs. There are hundreds of Chinese, Korean, and



Bangkok Garden      \$\$\$

Thai

416-977-6748

[www.bangkokgarden.ca](http://www.bangkokgarden.ca)

18 Elm Street

Very good Thai food, especially for lunch, but a little pricey for supper.

Barberians              \$\$\$\$

Steakhouse

416-597-0335

[www.barberians.com](http://www.barberians.com)

7 Elm St.

Good food but pricey. Menu is mostly steak. The wine list has 25,000 entries. Reservations required.

Biago                      \$\$\$\$

Italian

416-366-4040

[www.dine.to/biagio](http://www.dine.to/biagio)

155 King St. East

Located in historic St. Lawrence Town Hall, the center of the old city of Toronto. The food is excellent as is the service. Four or five Italian gentlemen (ages between 55 and 70) wait on tables; one will take your order, somebody else will bring your beverages and a different one will bring your food. They always know who ordered what. They have a very extensive wine list.

Bistro 990              \$\$\$\$

French

416-921-9990

[www.bistro990.ca](http://www.bistro990.ca)

990 Bay St.

Very good food. A favourite with the Toronto Film Festival crowd.

Bluestone Grill Bar      \$\$

Pub

416-203-2374

372 Bay Street

A small pub that serves nice lunches. A short walk from the Sheraton.

Bodega                                \$\$  
 French  
 416-977-1287  
[www.bodegarestaurant.com](http://www.bodegarestaurant.com)  
 30 Baldwin St.  
 Very good food.

Cafe Brussel                        \$\$\$\$  
 Belgian  
 416-465-7363  
[www.cafebrussel.com/contact.htm](http://www.cafebrussel.com/contact.htm)  
 124 Danforth Ave.  
 Excellent food. There are 32 Mussel dishes on the menu, as well as frites, and other interesting items. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Cafe la Gaffe                        \$\$  
 Eclectically French  
 416-596-2397  
[www.cafelagaffe.com](http://www.cafelagaffe.com)  
 24 Baldwin St.  
 Not very big, but they do have a fairly large patio behind the building. The food is excellent, and the salads are highly recommended and enormous.

Canoe                                    \$\$\$\$  
 Canadian  
 416-364-0554  
[www.canoerestaurant.com](http://www.canoerestaurant.com)  
 66 Wellington St. West  
 Canoe is located on the 54<sup>th</sup> Floor of the TD Bank Building. They are open for lunch and dinner Monday to Friday. Pricey. Very large wine list.

C'est What                            \$\$  
 Pub  
 416-867-9499  
[www.cestwhat.com](http://www.cestwhat.com)  
 67 Front Street East

We haven't been there for years, but they had a large selection of beers (including local microbrews) and a nice lunch menu.

Donatello \$\$\$.

Italian

416-595-5001

[www.donatellorestaurant.ca](http://www.donatellorestaurant.ca)

37 Elm Street.

Lynne has only eaten here for lunch. It is standard Italian, nothing overly special but very solid.

Dora Keogh \$\$\$

Irish

416-778-1804

[www.allens.to](http://www.allens.to)

141 Danforth Ave.

Next door to Allens and also owned by John Maxwell. It doesn't open until 5:00 PM, but has a wonderful selection of whiskies and beers.

Rated by the Toronto Star in 2008 as one of the top 10 places to drink beer.

Ematei \$\$\$

Japanese

416-340-0472

[www.torontolife.com/guide/restaurants/japanese/ematei/](http://www.torontolife.com/guide/restaurants/japanese/ematei/)

30 St Patrick St.

Ematei serves great sushi as well as other Japanese meals. We enjoy sitting at sushi bar to eat and talking to the two sushi chefs.

Esplanade Bier Markt \$\$

Belgian

416-862-7575

[www.thebiermarkt.com](http://www.thebiermarkt.com)

58 The Esplanade

They have over 100 different beers from 24 countries. Their specialty is mussels and frites. We like the food, but it is not our favorite place as they often have very loud music in the evening after 9pm.

Fishermans Wharf \$\$\$

Seafood

416-364-1344  
 69 Richmond Street West  
[www.fishermanswharf-toronto.com](http://www.fishermanswharf-toronto.com)

We have never eaten here. Prices on the dinner menu range from \$25 to \$35.

The Horseshoe Tavern      \$  
 Pub.

416-598-4753  
[www.horseshoetavern.com](http://www.horseshoetavern.com)  
 368 Queen Street West

This is one of the cheaper pubs around, as Labatts 50 is only \$4.75 a pint. There is no food served here, only beverages. This is the same pub where 15 years ago the Rolling Stones showed up one evening and asked if they could do a mini concert inside. This is a place where aspiring young musicians want to perform.

Irish Embassy              \$\$  
 Irish

416-866-8282  
 No web site  
 49 Yonge Street (at Wellington)

We've only had a drink there. The interior is a bit sterile, not at all what you might expect for an Irish pub. The building it occupies was built in 1873.

Jamie Kennedy Restaurants \$\$\$\$

Continental  
 416-362-1957  
<http://www.jkkitchens.com/v5/welcome.html>  
 9 Church Street

The food here is wonderful. You can order a complete meal, or make a meal on a series of Tapas. They don't accept reservations at the wine bar, which is an interesting place to drink and eat Tapas. If you are seated at the bar, you can chat with the chef and watch him prepare your food, which is always fun.

John's Italian Cafe        \$

Italian  
 416-596-8848

27 Baldwin Street

A nice Italian restaurant with a wonderful selection of very large sandwiches, served on a hard roll, most of which are about \$10 each. One sandwich is quite a meal and Lynne and I usually share one. They also do pasta and pizzas.

The Keg \$\$\$

Steakhouse and Bar

416-703-1773

[www.kegsteakhouse.com](http://www.kegsteakhouse.com)

165 York Street

Just around the corner from the Sheraton. A fairly large establishment with a very large bar and huge patio with bar in the back. Sandwiches at lunch will cost about \$10-15 while supper will cost between \$20 and \$35. The supper menu is mostly steaks, seafood, and chicken fajitas.

Little Anthony's \$\$\$

Italian Ristorante

416-368-2223

121 Richmond Street West

[www.littleanthonysrestaurant.com](http://www.littleanthonysrestaurant.com)

We have never eaten here. Right around the corner from the Sheraton. Prices from the lunch menu range from \$10 to \$20 while the supper menu is \$15 to \$25.

Mediterra \$\$\$

Mediterranean Sea Food Restaurant

416-368-9076

133 Richmond Street West

[www.mediterrarestaurant.ca](http://www.mediterrarestaurant.ca)

We have never eaten here. Right around the corner from the Sheraton. The price for items on the dinner menu range from \$20 to \$35.

Mochizuki \$\$

Japanese

416-348-8884

[www.mochizuki.ca](http://www.mochizuki.ca)

665 Bay Street

A very nice Japanese restaurant with a rotating sushi bar. A very good place to have Japanese food for lunch.

Mill Street Brewery      \$\$

Pub

416-681-0338

[www.millstreetbrewery.com](http://www.millstreetbrewery.com)

55 Mill St., Bldg 63

Historic Distillery District

This pub is very nice, has a patio, and the inside is wonderful. They brew their own beer, and it is quite tasty. I've drunk a beer or two but never eaten there. However, the food that is served looks very good.

Oro                              \$\$\$\$

International/Italian

416-597-0155

[www.ororestaurant.com](http://www.ororestaurant.com)

45 Elm St.

Very nice food and presented well. Pricey. Closed on Sunday.

Le Papillon                      \$\$

Casual French Dining

416-367-0303

[www.lepapillon.ca](http://www.lepapillon.ca)

69 Front Street

We ate there before it moved from Church Street. At that time the food was good, but not fantastic.

Perigee                            \$\$\$\$

French/Eclectic

416-364-1397

[www.perigeerestaurant.com](http://www.perigeerestaurant.com)

55 Mill St.

Distillery Historic District, Cannery Building

The food here is excellent but expensive. You can order a meal from the menu or you can order numerous small portions that are chef's choice.

The Rex                            \$\$

Pub

416-598-2475

[www.therex.ca](http://www.therex.ca)

194 Queen Street

A very nice, spacious pub, and also the site of the best live jazz and blues in Toronto. During the week, there are two different shows, one at 6:30 and one at 9:30. On weekends, there is continuous music all afternoon and evening.

Romagna Mia                      \$\$

Italian

416-363-8370

[www.ramagna-mia.com](http://www.ramagna-mia.com)

106 Front St.

Occupies the building adjacent to Up-Front. The food is quite good and not expensive. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Le Select Bistro                      \$\$\$

Parisian Style Bistro

416-596-6405

[www.leselect.com](http://www.leselect.com)

432 Wellington Street

We haven't eaten there since it moved from its former location on Queen Street West, but then the food was excellent. They have an extensive wine cellar.

Starfish                                      \$\$\$

Seafood

416-366-7827

100 Adelaide St. East

Good food and a raw bar with four different kinds of oysters, several types of clams and mussels.

Sultan's Tent                              \$\$\$

French Moroccan

416-961-0601

[www.thesultanstent.com](http://www.thesultanstent.com)

49 Front Street

A Casablanca-style bar and cafe. The food is very good. You sit in a lantern lit tent. They also have a belly-dancer that performs twice an evening, and she entertains each table individually.

Terroni \$\$\$

Italian

416-203-3093

[www.terrioni.ca](http://www.terrioni.ca)

57a Adelaide Street

Very good Southern Italian food and wonderful pizzas. There are three places in town (check their web-site). Closed on Sunday. No substitutions. They have very strict rules regarding what they'll put on your food. Reservations suggested.

Wolf and Firken \$

Pub

416-971-6264

No real web page.

Elm Street

This is my evening pub where I meet with non-scientists as well as Lynne for a drink after work. It is a good place for a quick lunch along with a beer or two.

Up-Front \$

Pub

416-364-6054

No web page.

106 Front Street

This is my weekend and afternoon pub. In some respects, it reminds me of Ulrichs in Buffalo. The short order cook is a Sri Lankan and he prepares some very good food, and if you ask, he'll make it Sri Lankan Hot!

Enjoy Toronto!

G. David Smith and P. Lynne Howell