

Luxury Dining Experiences in Orlando:

When it's time for a romantic evening or gourmet dining experience, a variety of Orlando establishments offer stellar wine lists, exceptional views, unique environments and award-winning cuisine.

Casual Elegance

Chatham's Place (407-345-2992; chathamspplace.com). Diners enjoy continental cuisine specialties such as rack of lamb, which has been rated best in the country, or the famous Florida black grouper with pecan butter, in this intimate restaurant. Located on Orlando's upscale "Restaurant Row."

Chez Vincent (407-599-2929; chezvincent.com). It's like a trip to Paris in this snug little bistro in Winter Park's historic Hannibal Square, with candlelit tables and classic French cuisine and wines.

Christini's Ristorance Italiano (407-345-8770; christinis.com). This family-owned and operated restaurant has been a favorite to the locals for many years. Christini's features Italian classics, prime aged steaks and chops; and fresh seafood flown in daily.

Emeril's Orlando (407-224-2424; emerils.com/restaurant/6/Emerils-Orlando) Emeril's Orlando encompasses everything Chef Emeril Lagasse stands for; "new" New Orleans cuisine, high energy, bold exciting flavors and an unforgettable experience.

Enzo's on the Lake (407-834-9872; enzos.com). Visitors from late owner Enzo Perlini's native Rome feel right at home in this hideaway on Lake Fairy in Longwood, built in the style of an Italian villa. Ask for a table overlooking the water and sculpted gardens.

Morton's of Chicago (407-248-3485; mortons.com). This well-known restaurant is recognized across the country, and has a home in Orlando on "Restaurant Row." Diners can choose the USDA prime-aged steak that they want prepared for them, making for a unique experience.

Oscar's (407-597-5500; waldorfastoriaorlando.com/dining/oscars) Much like its stylish namesake brasserie, Oscar's tantalizes the palate with contemporary cuisine in an elegantly casual setting. Located in the Waldorf=Astoria Orlando, the menu includes some of the best comforting, contemporary American dishes. (opens September, 2009)

Intimate Ambiance

Del Frisco's Prime Steak & Lobster (407-645-4443; delfriscosorlando.com). This locally-owned steakhouse combines old-fashioned hospitality with exceptionally-renowned food. Try a steak and seafood combination to get a taste of both restaurant specialties.

Flemings Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar (407-699-9463; flemingssteakhouse.com). Stylish, contemporary dining is the hallmark of this restaurant, known for its prime beef, chops, seafood and generous salads. Enjoy a glass of vino after dinner in the restaurant's wine bar. _

Todd English's bluezoo (407-934-1111; thebluezoo.com). Celebrity chef, Todd English, runs this one-of-a-kind restaurant, located in the Walt Disney World Dolphin. Featuring fresh seafood and coastal cuisine, the "all blue" decor is not something diners will soon forget.

Venetian Room (407-238-8060; thevenetianroom.com). Dramatic ambience and haute cuisine make this upscale dining room at the Caribe Royale Orlando a favorite.

Kres Chophouse (407-447-7950; kresrestaurant.com). Kres is a progressive American chophouse with a Mediterranean influence. The menu changes daily and the restaurant features an extensive wine list, semi-private rooms for special events, a casually upscale lounge and late-night menu.

Make a Big Impression

The Boheme (407-313-9000; grandbohemianhotel.com). In downtown's Grand Bohemian Hotel - Orlando, the evening begins in the sensual Bösendorfer Lounge, then moves to a luxurious booth in the adjacent dining room for classic Continental fare.

The Capital Grille (407-370-4392; thecapitalgrille.com). Diners can indulge in dry aged steaks and choose from more than 5,000 bottles of wine in an atmosphere of Floridian ease and elegance. Those seeking a more secluded dining experience should ask for a table on the outdoor patio.

Luma on Park (407-599-4111; lumaonpark.com). With a chic, "big city" atmosphere, this progressive American restaurant is perfect for a big night out. Diners should be sure to stroll along Park Avenue after dinner and take in the surroundings—this area is known as Orlando's "Rodeo Drive." Several wine bars are also close by, including The Wine Room and Eola Wine Company.

Norman's (407-206-2400; ritzcarlton.com). Chef and cookbook author Norman Van Aken presents sophisticated cuisine inspired by the flavors of Latin America, the Caribbean and the southern United States in a luxurious dining room with marble floors, floor-to-ceiling windows and views of the resort's championship golf course.

The Oceanaire Seafood Room (407-363-4801; theoceanaire.com). As sleek as a 1930s ocean liner, yet relaxed as a dinner on the shore, this restaurant provides the perfect setting to enjoy seafood, flown in daily from around the world. Located at Pointe Orlando on International Drive.

Victoria & Albert's (407-939-3463; disneyworld.com). Orlando's only AAA Five-Diamond restaurant and the crème de la crème of dining at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa. The serene dining room with harp music, butler-style service and an award-winning, seven-course seasonal menu, embodies a spirit of luxury and romance.

Bice Orlando Ristorante (407-503-1415; biceorlando.com). Located at the Loews Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Orlando, Bice offers rustic Italian fare in an elegant and trendy setting.

Bull & Bear Steakhouse(407-597-5500; waldorfastoriaorlando.com/dining/bullandbear). Located at the Waldorf=Astoria Orlando opening fall 2009, this sumptuous steakhouse exudes a club-like warmth, compliments of its handsome furnishings and impeccable service. Chandeliers, a coffered ceiling and beveled glass windows lend an air of stateliness. The menu offers hearty portions of classic fare, much like the trend-setting original found in New York.