

Dining and More in Downtown St. Petersburg

Breakfast on Sunday, May 5, is on your own.

Here are some options within a short walk of the Hotel Indigo.

Second and Second — 24-hour diner at Second Street and Second Avenue N. 2ndandsecond.com, (727) 440-4700. They never close.

The Wooden Rooster — 104 Second Ave. NE, thewoodenrooster.com, (727) 822-7373. Casual cafe specializing in crepes. Opens at 7 a.m.

Kahwa Coffee — 475 Second St. N (at Fifth Avenue N). kahwacoffee.com; (727) 823-4700. Local coffee roastery. Coffee drinks, light pastries, locals with dogs and laptops. Opens Sundays at 7:30 a.m.

Craft Kafe — 200 Central Ave., craftkafe.com, (727) 256-8587. Opens at 8 a.m. Sundays. All-gluten-free all the time. Breakfast, lunch, snacks.

Starbucks — 199 First Ave. N (at Second Street). You know what to expect.

Cassis — 170 Beach Drive, cassisstpete.com, (727) 827-2927. Sunday breakfast from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. They also have a walk-up bakery where you can get coffee and French pastries to go or to eat at their outside tables.

Central Coffee Shoppe — 530 Central Ave., centralcoffeeshoppepe.com, (727) 821-1125. Sunday breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A real diner that's been here forever. Nobody writes anything down, but when you step up to pay (cash preferred), the guy at the register knows exactly what you ordered.

The Annex — 400 Beach Drive NE, annex400beach.com, (727) 896-4400. A walk-up cafe with casual breakfast, lunch and dessert choices. Opens at 8 a.m.

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Lunch and dinner on Saturday, May 4, are on your own. Downtown St. Petersburg has a great variety of restaurants at every price point. Wander around, read the menus, see what appeals. These are a few of our favorites.

Renaissance Vinoy Resort — 501 Fifth Ave. N, vinoyclub.com, (727) 894-1000. This beautifully restored 1920s-era hotel is worth a visit just to admire the public rooms, take in the views over Tampa Bay, or enjoy beverages on the veranda or in the tile-floored lobby with original stenciled cypress ceiling beams. This is where the rich and famous stayed in the 1920s — sports figures, celebrities, movie stars ... and it's where St. Petersburg has been marking life's milestones — proms, proposals, marriages, anniversaries — since 1925. Lunch and dinner options include **Marchand's Grill** (formal, fancy, expensive) and **Paul's Landing** (casual, beachy, modestly priced).

The Moon Under Water — 332 Beach Drive NE, themoonunderwater.com, (727) 896-6160. Lunch and dinner. Indo-British cuisine, good beer selections. Funky and casual.

400 Beach Seafood and Tap House — 400 Beach Drive NE. 400beachseafood.com, (727) 896-2400. Coastal cuisine: raw bar; lobster mac and cheese, crab cakes, scallops, salmon, grouper; plus steaks, chops and chicken. Lots of beer on draft including local brews.

Birch & Vine at the Birchwood Hotel — 340 Beach Drive NE, (727) 896-1080, thebirchwood.com. Seasonal, organic, ranging from light fare to meaty chops, cuts and seafood. The rooftop bar, the Canopy, is a popular spot for great views out over Tampa Bay.

Annata Restaurant and Wine Bar — 300 Beach Drive NE, annatawine.com, (727) 851-9582. Charcuterie plates, avocado toast (yes!), flatbreads, pastas, beef, pork, strong wine list. Opens at 4 p.m.

Alto Mare Fish Bar — 300 Beach Drive NE, no website but they're on Facebook; (727) 873-3427. Same ownership as Annata (they also own a hugely popular Italian market and bakery). Lots of shellfish on ice; chowder; small plates; squid-ink conchiglie, lobster bucatini, scampi, daily specials. Opens at 4 p.m.

Paciugo — 300 Beach Drive NE, paciugo.com, (727) 209-0298. Gelato shop, all hand-made in the store; coffee drinks. This is where all the restaurants on Beach Drive send their customers for dessert. Say "Pa-choo-go."

Parkshore Grill — 300 Beach Drive, parkshoregrill.com, (727) 896-9463. Steaks, seafood, "contemporary American cuisine." Same ownership as 400 Beach Seafood and Tap House.

Flute & Dram — 234 Beach Drive NE, no website, (727) 350-5657. We interrupt this listing of restaurants to point out Flute & Dram, which offers four things: Champagne. Whiskey. Caviar. Cigars. (And yes, Pappy Van Winkle.)

Stillwaters Tavern — 224 Beach Drive NE, stillwaterstavern.com, (727) 350-1019. "Hearty yet elevated" American fare. Lots of big groups at outside tables.

Bella Brava — 204 Beach Drive NE, bellabrava.com, (727) 895-5515. Casual American-Italian; lots of family groups, showers and birthdays.

Cassis American Brasserie — 170 Beach Drive NE, cassisstpete.com, (727) 827-2927. Euro-French-American. Plateaux de fruits de mer (read: raw-bar platters), steak frites, bouillabaisse — as close as you'll get to Paris on this trip; plus burgers, grouper sandwiches, duck breast, pasta.

At the Sundial complex — Second Street between Third and Second avenues, and including the AMC movie theaters — you have these dining options:

Locale — 179 Second Ave. N, localegourmetmarket.com, (727) 523-6300. Gourmet market/butcher with casual dining options on the ground floor: hot sandwiches and burgers (try the St. Petersburg), a pizza bar, and a grill, where you can pick your meat or fish and it's cooked before your very eyes; add a couple of sides, et voila. Take out or eat at their tables in the courtyard.

Upstairs is **Farm Table Cucina**, farmtablecucina.com, (727) 523-6297. Upscale farm-to-table restaurant with a lively bar, Cal-Italia menu, wood-fired steaks, good wine list.

Also on this upper level, two other options:

Ruth's Chris Steakhouse — 131 Second Ave. NE, <https://www.ruthschris.com/restaurant-locations/st-petersburg/> (727) 821-4139. Steaks.

SeaSalt — 183 Second Ave. NE, seasaltstpete.com, (727) 873-7964. Seafood, raw bar, organic, local, wild-caught. Wine tower extends 22 feet in height with 4,000 bottles (worth a look!).

The Ale and the Witch — 111 Second Ave. NE, thealeandthewitch.com, (727) 821-2533. We interrupt this listing of restaurants to point out The Ale and the Witch, beloved of locals, which offers a wide variety of craft beers (30 taps and at least one new cask a week) and great live music out in the courtyard. Where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came.

Oak & Stone — 199 Central Ave. (on Second Street, next to the Hyatt Place hotel), oakandstone.com, (727) 565-4064. More than 50 craft-beer taps, including many local brews; bar food, bowls and salads; personal pizzas, many TVs. For many these are the necessities of life, with wristbands.

The Mill — 200 Central Ave., themillrestaurants.com, (727) 317-3930. A little Southern (shrimp and grits, pork shank potpie), a little substantial (pork tomahawk, meatloaf Wellington, steaks), a little trendy (cider-braised mussels, charcuterie plates including octopus bacon or "Canadian gator bacon."

The Oyster Bar — 249 Central Ave., oysterbarstpete.com, (727) 897-9728. Casual. Raw bar (oysters!), fish sandwiches, fish and chips, gumbo, tacos, lobster rolls; grouper, cod, lobster tails, scallops.

La V — 441 Central Ave., lavfusion.com, (727) 820-3500. Sleek Vietnamese fusion restaurant. OMG, the pho! Rice noodle bowls; iron pot, *bun cha*, vegetarian specials, bubble tea, more.

Il Ritorno — 449 Central Ave., ilritornodowntown.com, (727) 897-5900. White-tablecloth "rustic-industrial Italian dinner spot." Wild boar, crispy pig ears, lamb spaghetti, scallop risotto.

Grattzi Italian Grill — 211 Second St. S, gratzzigrille.com, (727) 623-9037. Because everybody needs a friendly, family-run red-sauce Italian restaurant (you know, cavatelli bada bing).

Dr. BBQ — 1101 First Ave. S, drbbqs.com (727) 443-7227. Brisket! Pulled pork! Rib eye! Gator! Newly opened and already a local fave. This restaurant is a longish walk from your hotel; If the hotel van can't drop you off/pick you up, this may be why God invented Uber.

At the beach ...

The Hurricane — 807 Gulf Way, St. Pete Beach, thehurricane.com, (727) 360-9558. Sunsets at the hurricane overlooking the Gulf are legendary. Beautiful beach just across the street for strolling and shelling. Some think the grouper sandwiches here are the best in town. Big menu of fish, surf and turf, pasta. Casual, crowded, noisy.

Rumfish Grill — 6000 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach, rumfishgrill.com (727) 329-1428. Besides the food, the attraction here is a 33,500-gallon aquarium that occupies one whole wall of the dining room. We like the light-up menus and the food: raw bar, Caribbean snapper, jerk swordfish, shrimp and grits, steaks, pasta.

Woody's Waterfront —7308 Sunset Way, St. Pete Beach, woodyswaterfront.com, (727) 360-9165. Longtime family-friendly joint (some nights there's a balloon guy). Shrimp, clams, scallops, fish and chips, burgers. They take cash only, which should tell you what the prices are like. If you're wearing long pants you're overdressed.

If you need ...

Yes, you could find these things by searching for "_____ near me." But let us make it easy for you. At the intersection of Second Avenue and Second Street SOUTH, you'll be standing at a UPS store and the Grattzi restaurant (see above). INSIDE that block you'll find the following:

- * Publix grocery store (open 7 a.m.-10 p.m.)
- * American Spirits wine and liquor
- * Subway sandwich shop
- * Bank of America, with 24-hour ATM; there's also an ATM that accepts many cards at the entrance to Publix

There is a CVS drugstore just across the street from the Publix at 301 Third St. S.

Closest McDonald's are way too far to walk: at 300 38th Ave. N and 1661 Fourth St. S.

And don't miss ...

... this photo op: pose with the pelican, the gator or the elephant on the benches outside 210/214/222 Beach Drive (from the Natural Comfort shoe store to the Kilwin's ice cream store).