

Finding Gourmet Restaurants On Vacation

Gourmet restaurants

five_star_dining_picks

Taking a vacation to a faraway destination is always an exciting experience, but there's always one part that's a glaring question: where are you going to eat? It's hard to find exactly what you're looking for all the time – sometimes you want to eat something familiar, sometimes you want to try something new, and other times you just pick a restaurant out while you're walking down the street. Finding [gourmet restaurants](#) during your trip can be easy depending on where you stay. If you're visiting a higher-end hotel, you'll likely have an easier time spotting the nicer restaurants because you'll see promotional material and have recommendations from the staff/concierge as to where the better places are.

But what if you aren't staying at a fancy 5-star hotel but like to eat like a 5-star? There are some obvious queues that you can look for – most gourmet restaurants will sway to one side of the other in terms of design. Looking for a traditional gourmet restaurant is easy; you'll feel the stuffiness before you can walk through the door, and this isn't a bad thing. You want a gourmet restaurant to exude the confidence in its dishes without compare and be able to deliver on this promise. It's more likely that you'll find a positive experience this way than a restaurant making you question why you didn't spend \$1 on instant noodles.

In recent years, a lot of restaurants have also started adopting more eclectic styles of design. Taking older buildings (particularly popular in older cities) and, instead of completely revamping them, taking the natural design of building and expanding on it to create a unique dining experience. Budapest has done a great job of adopting this where whimsical garden gnomes, old rocking horses and mismatched patio furniture suspended in the air almost go unnoticed in the other eye-level absurdities that some gourmet restaurants have.

Many of Budapest's Ruin Pubs in the seventh district have transformed the area behind the city's largest synagogue from a run-down neighborhood to the trendiest spot in town. There are roughly 30 pubs and restaurants in the area that are all offering incredible food and a unique dining experience that you won't find anywhere else. While it may not be as upscale as other areas, the food itself is on a whole other level and melds the traditional gourmet cooking experience with a more relaxed and casual pub-style atmosphere. The unique and almost strange art lends itself to a wide topic of conversation pieces and photo opportunities that you'll be able to share with friends and family.

For those keeping to the big cities, you'll start to see this trend occurring more in burgeoning neighborhoods as the efforts to revitalize cities becomes more prevalent all across North America. Many chefs are breaking into the scene on their own and taking their professionally trained talents to new levels.

Gourmet food and, as a result, gourmet restaurants are going through a transformation. The trend is moving away from dressing up to dressing down, and while formal dining will forever has its place, gourmet food is finding its way onto the plates of more casual eateries. Gourmet chefs are infusing their personal style with their food in unadulterated fashions and being given praise as a result. With food trucks exploding into the market, having a brick and mortar location is no longer a necessity to getting into the industry and is greatly reducing the cost and difficulty accessing incredible food.

The more gourmet restaurants start to move towards this trend, the better chance you'll have finding great food on your vacation. In the summer months you'll find food trucks in nearly every major city, each offering a unique and likely local flavor. The wide range of food trucks will give you a large selection of offers and many large cities will typically have festivals promoting them. Think of food trucks like mini-gourmet restaurants on wheels that you can visit on-the-go, a perfect merit to have if you're running around on vacation. Ultimately you just want to find something that has a menu you'll like and you'll be please, but don't be afraid to look around.