

Crystal River Florida Restaurants

Crystal River has an abundance of chain restaurants: Wawa, Chilis, Arby's, Applebee's, Kentucky Fried Chicken Mc Donalds, Hardees, Taco Bell, Dunkin' Donuts, Sonic returning...

I will start with my favorite CR restaurants:

Vintage on 5th (has atmosphere, service and good food plus the prices are good including the wine choices...MUST Make a reservation! 114 NE 5th St; (352) 794-0004, <http://www.vintageon5th.com>, <https://www.facebook.com/Vintage-on-5th-114962088570282/>)

Seafood Seller and Café (for Maryland style crab cake, gumbo, clam chowder and fresh fish. The owner is delightful as he chats with all and does table-side magic tricks. There are no reservations except for the big table for 10-12. Shop in their store and enjoy the fresh seafood! Expect a wait for dinner! 300 SE US HWY 19; 352) 228-4936; <https://www.seafoodsellerandcafe.net/>

Amy's on the Avenue: Café, Bakery and Gift Shop is a great place for lunch and to browse the gift shop. The quiche is delicious and so are the cookies and candy you can buy. A nice day, eat outside on the patio. Historic downtown Crystal River 539 N Citrus Ave, (352) 563-2697 , <https://www.facebook.com/Amysontheavenue>; <http://www.amysontheavenue.com/menu.html>

I still love to take out-of-town guests out to eat "on the water:" ***Crackers, Bar, Grill and Tiki*** (has an outside tiki bar and a dining room with a menu of fried foods although they do offer other choices you wouldn't find in your local pub. If it's a nice day or night, eat outside! (352) 795-3999, <http://www.crackersbarandgrill.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/CrackersBarandGrill>, 502 NW 6 th Street (off Hwy 19)

Cedar River Seafood: Second CC location: They are located in a former Mexican restaurant. 1935 U.S. Hwy 19 (just down from Fort Island Trail) 352-794-3379. cedarriverseafood.com. Good food, good prices, great service.

SWEET-TOOTHS—not many bakeries in CC!

Crystal River's ***Queen of Cakes:*** Enjoyed: cupcakes: carrot cake, white chocolate raspberry, snickers, banana, double chocolate. They have at least 16 flavors daily. 430 NE 3rd St, Ste 5; 352 228 4284 <https://www.facebook.com/queenofcakes77/>; <https://www.queen-of-cakes.com/>

Restaurants to try:

Waterviews:

Plantation Inn West 82 Bar and Grill In this resort there have been many chefs come and go. Nice setting. Take a chance on the food.(9301 W Fort Island Trail) off Hwy 19, (352)

795-4211, <http://www.plantationoncrystalriver.com/restaurant-and-bars.htm>, <https://www.facebook.com/Plantation-West-82-Bar-Grill-473080829378509/>

Crab Plant has been in business for quite some time, and food is good but a bit pricey for plastic dishes and a lack luster atmosphere, except for the water view. Drinks are cheap. It is also a seafood market. 201 N W 5 th St; 352-795-4700. www.crabplant.com

St. John's Tavern: 572 N Citrus Ave; 352-794-6367; live music most nights. Loved the Tavern chips; serve bar food; <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsTavernCR/>

Fish House : offers a dining experience on the water. Ok food. They closed their retail fish store. 224 NW Hwy 19, (352) 795-3949, <http://www.charliesfishhouse.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charlies-Fish-House-Seafood-Market/158221390884204>

Bubbaques: Cute country theme decor, the barbecue is good. 631 N Citrus Ave., 352-795-7227; www.bubbaquesbbq.com

Waterfront Social: On the water dining...affiliated with Katch 22; good food and service. 1610 SE Paradise Cir; (352) 795-3113; waterfrontsocialcr.com

a bit of drive:

Pecks Old Port Cove (If you are looking for stone crab, Peck's is your place. It is a little out of the way so be prepared to drive a little while to get there. 139 Ozello Trail, 352-795-2886, <https://www.facebook.com/Pecks-Old-Port-Cove-117475071600867/>):

Swampy's Bar & Grill (Dunnellon, FL) - Nice river setting. Food is good. Described as "Laid-back riverside bar and grill with scenic deck serving Cajun fare, burgers & fish tacos. 19773 E Pennsylvania Ave., 352-547-4777. <http://swampys.restaurant/>

Blackwater Grill and Pub Yankeetown; Fish place on the Withlachocee River; 6301 Riverside Dr. Historic site-Old Isaac Walton Lodge; A Favorite!
<https://www.blackwateryankeetownfl.com/Restaurants>

Back Water Fins: Ozello; Nice river setting specialize in seafood. The blue crab soup is excellent. The clam chowder is the best I have had in years. 13982 Ozello Trail, 352-794-6000; <http://backwater-fins.com>

Other restaurants:

Newer: **KC's Koffee and Wine Bar** It's a small, cozy restaurant with six tables inside, a large bar and outside seating for nine and a bench around the fire pit. Our fish dinners were delicious! The dessert of the night: rum cake with whipped cream was yummy. (beer and wine only) Live music at night. They take reservations: 352-450-0008; 564 N. Citrus Ave. <https://kcwinecoffeebar.com/>

Prohibition Grille (Copp Winery and Brewery) Crystal River. (New restaurant which features food prepared by Jimmy from Seafood Cellars...They do not take reservations so we arrived there at 5:22 and no problem for seating for four on a Thursday. Menu is appetizers, sandwiches and small plates. We ordered lobster mac and cheese (very spicy). The lamb lollipops were very good. Pretzels bites good. With that being said, we would not go back there anytime soon. Check the menu out. They are not open every day. <https://coppbrewery.com/>

Crystal River has a newer restaurant for... "brunch" I would say since they open at 10 o'clock and close at 4, Monday-Friday. ***Sadie's Corner Kitchen*** where we had a delicious lunch... we could not even finish the half Cuban. (as good as Havana House's Cuban was.) We took home for dinner two of the daily entrées featured for that day: Chicken Parmesan and Lasagna. They were both very good and again large portions. For dessert we had tiramisu and it was excellent. We brought home a little cherry pie and it was delicious. 353 N E Second Ave; 352-794-3857; email: sandiescornerkitchen@gmail.com

Kanes Cattle Company: Beef specials. Good meal, but pricey. 508 N Citrus Ave (352) 794-6721; <https://www.facebook.com/kanescattleco/>

Cattledog Roasters: Coffee place but Menu changes monthly. Good pecan chicken salad. has three locations in CC ... in Crystal River: 638 N Citrus; 32-228-8818. <https://www.cattledogcoffeeroasters.com/>

Biscuit Barn: great breakfast place; good lunches too. 1960 US Hwy 19; 352-794-3385; <https://www.biscuitbarn.net/>

Coney Island ; branch of famous Brooksville restaurant. close to what Detroit serves. Cute decor Several types of dogs and like the chopped pork sandwich. (352) 228-8125; www.famousfootlongs.com/ ; 44 SE 7th St (off Hwy 44)

Cody's Original Roadhouse) is a local favorite-call ahead seating usually a must. It has early bird specials, a large item menu and a nice salad and happy hour. Daily specials include the popular Wednesday 2 for 1 Fajita. Cody's has good ribs, steak and salmon. Like wings or burgers? 305 S E Hwy 19, (352) 795-7223, <http://codysoriginalroadhouse.com/>,

Dan's Clam Stand; New owners. The grouper fingers basket (when available) and shrimp and lobster specials are a real value. It is my place for lobster. (2 locations: Hwy 19-Crystal River and Grover Cleveland, Homosassa (352) 795-9081, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dans-Clam-Stand/116140618410737>)

Crystal River Smokehouse & Grill: Specialize in BBQ. Recommended to me.

Spicy ribs and chunky cole slaw. Lots of pulled pork options. (352) 228-4159

<https://www.crystalriverbbq.com/>

Olive Tree has Greek and American dishes. They have been in business for a number of years now and won an award for the Taste of Citrus for casual dining; (352) 563-0075, <http://www.olivetreedining.com/> (Hwy 19, (352) 795-2633,

Oysters: Yes, we like this restaurant for fried chicken and shrimp! Nothing fancy but good food, <https://www.facebook.com/OystersOfCrystalRiver/>)

Nortons Riverside Sports Bar and Grill: Bar food, Great fish dip...A popular spot for live music, it has a nice setting for a sports bar. 16 N E 5ht St; 352-794-6105; <https://www.nortonsriverside.com/>

Lollygaggers Sports Pub & Grill Had some good lunches there. (744 S E US Hwy 19; 352-794-6105, <http://www.lollygaggers.net/>)

Kelly's Half Shell Pub: We had decent meal there with friends...

If you are a sports bar fan and enjoy that type of food and/or oysters, you should try Kelly's. . 390 Suncoast Blvd (Hwy 19) <https://www.kellyshalfshell.com/>, 352-228-8366

Loft Bar & Grill WON 1st place (2nd time) for "King of the Wings" Chronicle Award.(Sticky Thai Wings). Never been there. 10131 N Citrus Ave, (352) 564-4100 ; <https://www.facebook.com/LoftBar352/>

The Boil Yard. To me, it's a typical Florida seafood restaurant nothing real fancy, but they have a unique menu with their "boils". Art had the grouper, and he said it was pretty good, my fried shrimp was very tasty. I did not like the "dirty rice." but their french fries are awesome! 601 SE US Hwy 19; 352-564-2529; <https://www.boilyard.com/>

220 Barbecue: Great carry-out or catering. Excellent ribs, brisket, cornbread and key lime pie. Beverly Hills: 4493 N Lecanto Hwy, 352-513-5665; also in Crystal River 7911 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy, 352-794-6157.<https://www.220bbq.com/>

Hardwood Smokehouse now located next to Rural King near the former Crystal River Mall. The ribs were meaty but a little dry. Their coleslaw and cornbread "hoecake" are delicious. 352-732-3677 <https://www.facebook.com/HardwoodSmokehouse/>

ETHNIC

Every area seems to have a large number of **Italian** restaurants.

One of our favs is La Casa di Norma. Art likes the veal marsala, I like the crab ravioli with shrimp. Friend likes the lemon chicken. Small cozy restaurant. prepare to wait if busy, the chef prepares one table at time. Wife is the wait staff.

1609 SE US Highway 19, <https://la-casa-di-norma.business.site/>; 352-795-4694.

like **Rocco's** They have great Italian food, antipasto salad and thin crust pizza. (SR 44, (352) 563-0442, <http://www.roccosfamouscafe.com/>

Brothers Pizza,) Great lunch and dinner choices and the pizza is good. Husband likes the spaghetti with meatballs and Italian sausage. They are very busy Saturday nights. They have a large carry-out business.(Crystal Springs Publix Shopping Center SR 44 near Hwy 486, 352) 564-9374, <https://www.facebook.com/BroPizza>:

Chinese: **Mr. King's**) has a nice oriental menu and great fried rice, fried wontons and excellent wonton soup... not been there in years.(off Hwy 19, 471 NE 1st Ter) :(352) 564-2488, <http://www.mrkingcrystalriver.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mr-King/116198485075888>:

El Ranchito It has great chips and salsa-nice selection and good service I like the fajita chicken salad. Two locations: (Hwy 19, (352) 795-5251 and Inverness, (SR 44 in Beall's shopping center, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/El-Ranchito-Mexican-Grill/117375374948421>).

Thai Phoon has excellent Thai food. 238 SW Hwy 19, (352) 795-1774, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Thai-Phoon-Restaurant/114057718625596>):

Taverna Manos has a Greek influence with gyros, pita bread, etc. 5705 Hwy 44, 352-564-0078, <http://tavernamanos.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/tavernamanos/photos/a.346709605380852.104615.225372037514610/512631968788614/?type=3&theater>:

NEWer Crystal River MEXICAN RESTAURANT: **LA CASITA**; 773 N 5 th Street (Really off Hwy 44) ; 352-794-3944; <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=la%20casita%20mexican%20restaurant>

Dunnellon is a little drive for me and so not a frequent place I go for food:

Cheers is located in the lower end of where the original restaurant at Rainbow Springs Golf Course used to be. It's not much of a setting.Karen had a side salad and it was good. She also ordered the chicken salad, and it was served on a really thick roll. Karen basically ate the chicken salad, but she really did like it. LeAnna had a Cobb salad which she enjoyed. Jack had a patty melt with a side of mashed red potatoes, and he liked it. Mike had a shrimp cocktail. It was OK. His prime rib was just a little chewy. I had the fried shrimp, and it was excellent. Art had a Reuben and it was OK. Their coleslaw is very good. Our food was OK but it's not worth a 35 minute drive on a regular basis. What keeps them going, I think, are the nights they have live music and dancing. 19330 SW 83rd Place Rd (352) 460-1422.

The Front Porch Restaurant & Pie Shop (has great pies, good Cubans and a nice luncheon menu. Chicken pot pie for dinner was very good. 12039 Hwy 41, 352-489-4798, <http://www.frontporchpieshop.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Front-Porch-Restaurant-Pie-Shop/126107277496204?fref=ts>)

Pizza Joint Wood Fire (Have not been there and have heard good and bad reviews. Pizza lover?.352-564-1300, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Pizza-Joint-Wood-Fire-Pies/283180241724291>).

Don Pepe Excellent food and good prices. 20744 W Pennsylvania Ave. (205) 408-3880; <https://donpepegrill.com/>

12/2023

courtesy Linda Thomas, Century 21JW Morton 352-464-4881