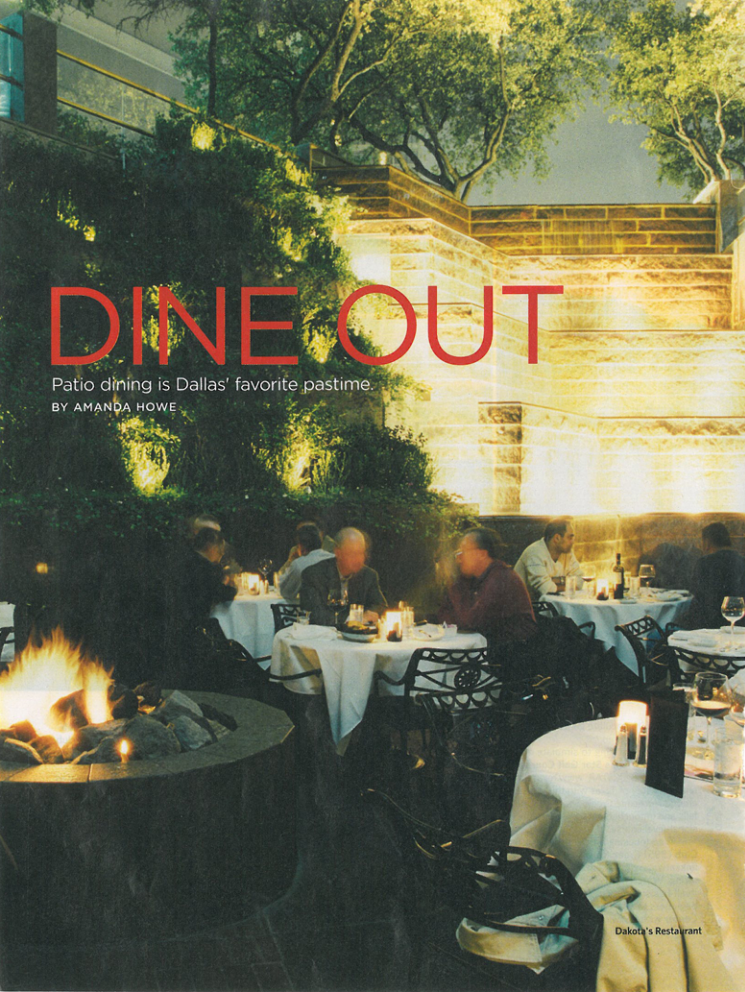


DINE OUT

Patio dining is Dallas' favorite pastime.

BY AMANDA HOWE



Dakota's Restaurant



Patrizio's

During Dallas' very brief spring, the impulse to dine alfresco is simply irresistible. For just a handful of weeks, the weather in our city is as calm and inviting as the patios that beckon us.



Bolsa

You'll find one of the most unique and beautiful patios at **Dakota's Restaurant**. Also located downtown, Dakota's is situated below ground, with the dining room opening into a cozy sunken garden with a waterfall and greenery. Venture deeper into the heart of downtown, and you'll see a small brick alley with a party-like atmosphere and a bustling patio; welcome to **Campisi's**. Known mainly for its mouthwatering pasta and pizza, Campisi's offers a 5 pm-7 pm happy hour, when the drinks are cheap and the pizza is free.

In the Oak Lawn area, **Cosmic Café** serves up innovative, vegetarian cuisine in a hippie-chic atmosphere. The burbling fountain and Zen-like setting leaves patrons feeling refreshed. Similar in vibe, **Bolsa** in Oak Cliff is a clever little restaurant, where the focus is on local, organic ingredients. The patio here is laid-back and often offers live music.

In the Greenville Avenue and Lakewood areas, **Ozona Grill & Bar** and **Matt's Rancho Martinez** serve heaping portions of Texan favorites in relaxed atmospheres. Ozona has one of the best patios in town and offers a build-your-own Bloody Mary bar during Sunday brunch. Matt's is a Tex-Mex favorite with a twist: the selection of chicken-fried steaks can't be found on any other Tex-Mex menu.

If you head North toward the suburbs, you'll run across the Latin American bistro **La Duni**, **The Grill on the Alley** and **Old Hickory Steakhouse** and Asian-fusion restaurant **Ra Sushi**. All four have bonus appeal because they're next to great shopping. La Duni is the branch of local pastry chef Dunia Borgia and her husband Taco. Its patio overlooks a well-manicured garden at Northpark Center, and its Cuatro Leches Cake is famous. The Grill on the Alley is an elegant, traditional steakhouse located at Galleria Dallas, an impressive mall with an ice-skating rink and 45 acres of restaurants and retail stores.

In Grapevine at the Gaylord Texan Resort, the Old Hickory Steakhouse offers guests the experience of dining in a luxurious vineyard setting. Also housed within the Gaylord, the **Glass Cactus** is a high-energy nightclub with four bars and two decks that overlook Lake Grapevine. Both are close to the outlet mall Grapevine Mills.

For an open-air shopping and dining experience check out **Ra Sushi** in the Shops at Legacy in Plano. Open until 2 am, Ra Sushi draws a stylish crowd, who come for innovative sushi and tempting drink specials. If you're looking for something more casual, Addison's **The Londoner Pub** offers darts, beer and a large courtyard that is comfortable year round. This is the ultimate British pub experience.

There is really no better dining experience in this city than patio dining. A quiet patio, a crisp breeze and a cool drink ... this is how to savor a perfect day in Dallas.