

Staff Faves: Places to Honor Mom on Mother's Day

BY NATALIE LERNER



Oh Mom! How we love you so. Words cannot express how much we appreciate you. Every day should be Mother's Day, am I right? I mean seriously, can I get an "Amen"?

But when did this singular day we call "Mother's Day" actually start though? Well, the history is actually quite rich! The ancient Greeks and Romans held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele. Early Christianity used to encourage "Mothering Sunday"—a chance to return back to your mother church for a special service. During the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis launched "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to teach women how to care for their children. After the war, these clubs shifted into "Mother's Friendship Clubs" and promoted peace. In the 1870s, abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe encouraged an official "Mother's Peace Day." Several others encouraged Mother's Days as well. The official credit is given to Ann Jarvis however, granddaughter to Ann Reeves Jarvis. It was through her years of dedication in lobbying newspapers and politicians and even founding the Mother's Day International Association that Woodrow Wilson eventually signed it into officiality.

All fascinating history aside though, we know it is a big deal to treat mom to all that she deserves. If you find yourself stressing over what to treat her to, don't fret my pet, we've got you covered. Check out our staff faves below for some great local dives with delicious menus.

Bacaro Kitchen

14021 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079
bacarokitchen.com

It doesn't get any more Italian than taking Mom to a Bacaro! In northeastern Italy a Bacaro is what they call a friendly neighborhood wine bar where the owner greets customers and works the floor. Bill and Maria Loveday welcome their guests to explore their hidden gem full of delicious food and great service offering Italian-inspired cuisine featuring fresh Gulf seafood. Maria's Italian background and influence over some of the traditional tastes, coupled with Bill's extensive background and passion for hospitality, promises a memorable and delicious experience.

BORI

1453 Witte Rd., Houston, TX 77080
borirestaurant.com

Sights, sounds, and smells will invigorate Mom's senses at this South Korean-inspired steakhouse. Guests can enjoy not only a filet mignon or Bulgogi cooked right before their eyes upon an open grill, but the beauty of original artwork in the restaurant's private art gallery featuring local Korean artists, as well as pieces from the owner's private collection.

Dish Society

12525 Memorial Dr. #145, Houston, TX 77024
dishesociety.com

Our hats are off to you Aaron Lyons for bringing us this oh-so-tasty restaurant concept. Dedicated to using the highest quality and freshest ingredients possible, Mom is sure to enjoy this health conscious, locally sourced menu. She may even dig the flex-causal, modern industrial environment too! Try the Memorial Trail Scramble, Seasonal Grain Bowl, or Citrus Salmon for starters. Add in a toast to Mom with original cocktails, craft beer or wine, or even freshly squeezed juice too.

Ember & Greens

9403B Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77024
emberandgreens.com

"Every dish should be a destination," says Naderah Ahly. She and her son Iman, long-time residents of the Memorial Villages, teamed up to bring us what they call "modern American with flavorful influences from around the world." From comfort food to health food, meat-eater or vegetarian, Mom will have many options. Don't leave your dog at home when you go though. Ember & Greens

has a dog friendly patio and serves culinary options for your furry pal as well!

Hungry's (& Heartbeet)

14714 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079
hungryscfe.com

These two are technically their own restaurants, but owned by the same family and right next door to each other, so we grouped them together in case your family is like ours with both omnivores and vegetarians and happens to need both options. For four generations Hungry's has been a neighborhood favorite focusing on freshness, flavors, and family. Laid back, eclectic, and unpretentious, Mom can enjoy Smoked Salmon Avocado Toast, Gyro Pita, or Anaheim Chile Grilled Chicken to name a few. If she is a hard core vegetarian, have her order from next door. We recommend the Roasted Beet Poke Bowl!

Jonathan's The Rub

12505 Memorial Dr, #140, Houston, TX 77024
jonathanstherub.com

It's saying something when your clients encourage you to go big. Jonathan Levine's catering was so good; clients encouraged him to open a restaurant! In 2008, the first of two locations opened, and since then locals have enjoyed his cooking. With a full cocktail bar, Mom can couple a great elixir with Lobster Tacos, Chicken and Sausage Gumbo, Country Fried Chicken, or a great burger.

KP's Kitchen

8412 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77024
kps-kitchen.com

Hospitality maven, Kerry Pauly, has packaged a lifetime of hospitality into his restaurant. The venue offers menu items such as Crab N Eggs, Quiche of the Day, or the Chef's Veggie Burger. In house wine and beer or BYOB are all additional perks. Got a busy day ahead? You can also get it to go with a family pack instead!

Kuu

947 Gessner Rd., Houston, TX 77024
kuurestaurant.com

The art of eating is discovered at Kuu — no literally, that is what "Kuu" means! Mom will be sure to enjoy the variety of sushi and other Japanese options, elegant plating, and artful décor. Try the Lamb and Foie Gras or the Seared Wagyu Salad!

Liberty Kitchen & Oysterette-Memorial

963 Bunker Hill Rd

libertykitcheneats.com

This spot is not just toting a Gulf Coast menu of modern comfort food bursting in hearty flavors, but also maintains a robust calendar with live music every Friday and Saturday. Take Mom to sit atop the roof and enjoy the view as she "ooh's" and "ahh's" over the menu choices such as Calamari, Shrimp, and Asparagus, Lobster Stuffed Shells, or even Red Velvet Cheesecake for dessert!

Masraff's

9655 Katy Fwy, Unit 190, Houston, TX 77024

masraffs.com

When you visit Masraff's, Russell or Tony Masraff, the dynamic father/son duo, will be right there to welcome you to their restaurant serving contemporary American cuisine with a touch of elegance. From Fried Green Tomatoes to Duck Breast Rossini, the options are vast and made of premium ingredients. Patio seating and space for private gatherings are available too.

Palazzo's

10455 Briar Forest Dr., Houston, TX 77042
palazzos.com

Sometimes a warm bowl of saucy, rich pasta, Lasagna, or Chicken Piccata is all you need to hit the spot. A personal Palazzo's favorite is their version of Tomato Basil soup. Ask for the bread and be sure to dip it in the soup. The combo is outstanding. If you have a large group to seat, a private room is available, as is a private wine room.

Perry's Steakhouse & Grille

9827 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77024
perrysteakhouse.com

From small butcher shop to renowned, award-winning restaurant, Perry's has worked hard at not just perfecting prime, but the experience had around it. Dazzle Mom with a tableside carving, filet mignon, pork chops, a signature selection, and tap it off with a flaming dessert!

Postino

791 Town and Country Blvd, Unit 146, Houston, TX 77024

postinowinecafe.com

A wine bar and tapas! Need I say more? Down-to-earth and crazy-good, guests can try anything from their own OMG Grilled Cheese or Smoked Salmon to sharing charcuterie or bruchetta boards. Is Mom a wino? She can take her identity

to a whole new level and join their Wine Cult! Yes, it is actually called that.

ReikiNa

799 Town and Country Blvd, Unit 200, Houston, TX 77024
reikina.xyz

An intimate and unique dining experience made up of an eight-course meal with drink pairings is in store for Mom as she sits among a gallery made up of art by local artists. Thomas Stacy, former Uchi chef and the creative brains behind the operation, prepares all tastings up close and personal. Why? Well, during the pandemic he found himself hosting intimate dinners from the comfort of his own apartment. He was constantly booked and eventually invited to open an official location!

State Fare Kitchen & Bar

947 Gessner Rd., Suite B-190, Houston, TX 77024
statefaretx.com

At this spot, a fun ambiance with classic, made-from-scratch comfort food (that just might match Mom's good home cooking) awaits. Have Mom kick it back with a Mimosa Flight and perhaps a Black Bean Burger or a Seared Palacios Redfish Plate. Let her indulge a little; those Southern Fried Oreos may have her name on it.

Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen

1140 Eldridge Pkwy, Unit 100, Houston, TX 77077

sylviasenchiladas.com

Authentic and meticulously planned Mexican dishes are offered for Mom at Sylvia's. Plus, Mom can even join in in the kitchen! Sylvia Casares, the real Sylvia behind the Sylvia's concept, hosts cooking classes right there in her own restaurant's kitchen! From prepping a Chile Relleno, to the ancient art of making Tamales, there are many options for treating Mom to a memorable experience.

White Elm Cafe

14079 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079
whiteelmcafebakery.com

Chez Nous Chef owners Scott and Stacy Simonson have designed a menu inspired by elements from the French countryside and Mediterranean Coast. Items like Sweet Potato Lasagna and Roasted Octopus grace the menu. Plus, freshly made croissants and pastries await from the in-house bakery, only steps away.