

» A Taste of Home

If Italians are proud of one thing, it's their food. Most Italians, even living in large cities, eat Italian food exclusively, and in many cases stick only to the cuisine of their native region or town. And in a way it makes sense, why go out for a burger when you can have Mamma's *carbonara* at home?

—Tiffany Parks

But lately things have been changing. With the rise in popularity of American cuisine, including classics such as New England clam chowder, New York steak and the inimitable cheesecake, as well as a newer fusion-style cuisine found more prevalently on the west coast, American food is being taken seriously in Rome for perhaps the first time. Italians are finally casting aside their prejudices against the land of the burger, and American and American-style fusion restaurants are popping up everywhere! Perfect for the weary traveler seeking a taste of home. We here at Where have gotten in on the trend and offer our suggestions for the best places to get some all-American grub.



DUKE'S

For the best in Californian dining, there's no better place than Duke's, in the posh neighborhood of Parioli. Although the name of the restaurant was inspired by surfing legend Duke Kahanamoku, the young chef, Massimiliano Iannozzi, is 100% Italian. Nevertheless, he has mastered the art of the barbecue, Duke's undeniable forte, whether you order beef, pork or chicken, smoked, grilled or marinated.

THE PERFECT BUN

Italians are intrigued by the southwest concept of Sunday brunch and many restaurants in the capital try to imitate it, but the only one that gets it right is The Perfect Bun. Located in the heart of town, near Campo de' Fiori, this cozy New York-style eatery offers a massive buffet of classic American breakfast foods, including pancakes, bacon, omelets, and bagels, not to mention the delectable buns they are named for.

HARD ROCK CAFÉ

It may not be new, but many claim that Hard Rock is the only place to get an authentic American burger in the Eternal City. But burgers are just a small part of the menu that is made up of a wide selection of typical American dishes, such as baked potatoes or Caesar salad, all served to the rhythm of classic rock music from the '70s, '80s and '90s.



T-BONE STATION

Another thoroughly American restaurant, the T-Bone Station, designed to mimic the look of an early 1900s train station, is famous not only for their mouthwatering steaks, but also for being the best place in town to find that famous American combination: Tex-Mex. Here you can indulge in tacos, chicken wings, guacamole, burritos and, of course, nachos. But don't fill up, you don't want to miss out on their classic desserts like apple pie and cheesecake.



□ Duke's - Viale Parioli, 200. Tel. 0680662455. www.dukes.it
□ T-Bone Station - Via Francesco Crispi, 29. Tel. 066787650
Via Santa Dorotea, 21 (Trastevere) and Via Francesco Crispi, 29 (Trevi). Tel 065882079. www.t-bone.it
□ The Perfect Bun - Largo del Teatro Valle, 4. Tel. 0645476337. www.theperfectbun.it
□ Hard Rock Café - Via Vittorio Veneto, 62 a/b. Tel. 064203051. www.hardrock.com