

Restaute Juide Anticipation The 67th World Science Fiction Contention Le 67° congrès mondial de science-tiction



Welcome to Montréal

Most of the text in this guide was written by Jo Walton; any text in the first person is assuredly hers. You can view updates, and add your own reviews, at http://community.livejournal.com/antici_food.

Montréal has the best and most varied food of anywhere I have ever been.

You may turn your nose up at that and say, well, Jo is from South Wales, a place not noted for the excellence of its food. It's true. All the same, even for people from fairly cosmopolitan places, heck, even for Jon Singer, the range and quality of food here is impressive. When my mother-in-law visited from Ireland, we managed to introduce her to ten new cuisines in a fortnight. There's a lot here, and a lot of it is excellent, and even the base level of expectation is very high.

What we want to do in the Restaurant Guide is cover everything there is within a few blocks of the convention centre in detail, and also suggest some of the highlights of the rest, the things for which it might be worth leaving the immediate area.

A note on language

Montréal is in Quebec, a French-speaking province of Canada. Most people living here naturally and normally speak French in their every-day lives. Many of them also speak English as a second language, some of them near-perfectly and some of them less well. English is Canada's other official language, so most people who went to school in Canada will have learned at least some. There are people here who came here as adults from French speaking places like Haiti, Mali, Vietnam, Algeria and France, who speak no English. But most people speak some.

People are very nice.

There is a rule that conversations will take place in whatever language everyone is most comfortable in. This means that if you try to speak French, people will switch to English because they notice at once that their English is better than your French. (This is why my French still sucks.) If they really don't speak English, they'll try hard to help figure out what you're saying in French.

However, if you try to speak English right away automatically to everyone, as if English were the only language in the world and you assume everyone naturally understands it, people might understandably become irritated with this assumption, and insist on speaking French.

Therefore, what you want to do is to start conversations with strangers with: "Bonjour hi." "Bonjour hi" is a Montréal greeting that means "Hello! I am a well-meaning person who accepts that I am in a French-speaking place—but could we speak English?" It's a literal handshake protocol.

"Bonjour" is pronounced Bon, as in "bonny" and "jour" as in "azure." You should also know "merci," which means "thank you." "S'il vous plait," pronounced "Seev'play" means please. Beyond that, English will do. The best way to think of it is that French is always correct, but English is usually okay. If you speak English with the attitude that you know French would be more correct in the circumstances, everyone will happily speak English. In tourist places, you can get away with just English from word one, but it costs nothing to be polite.

Getting around in Montréal

Montréal has an absurdly easy metro system—only four lines—and a very cleverly interlocked bus system. Every metro station serves as a mini bus-station, so you can always take the bus from the metro, and the metro from the bus. There are clear simple maps at every metro station and most bus shelters. All bus stops tell you what metro station the buses will go to next. You can buy a one day (\$9) or three day (\$17) tourist pass from metro stations where they anticipate tourists. Or you can buy an Opus card for \$3.50 and charge it with fares, either a number of individual tickets or a weekly pass (\$20 for a Monday—Sunday week, regardless of when you buy the pass). The pass or card is good on buses and metro. If you use tickets, they're valid for travel for two hours from when you first use them.

The metro is *totally inaccessible* for wheelchairs. There are stairs and escalators everywhere. For people not in wheelchairs but with some mobility issues, there are usually escalators for big flights, but they expect you to be able to climb say 20 steps, and there are often random little sets of four or five steps thrown in just for fun.

The buses, however, are totally accessible. They are almost all kneeling buses, and they have ramps and seats that fold up. You can get anywhere on buses and avoid the metro, it just takes longer.

Taxis aren't very expensive, and fill in the holes public transit doesn't reach, such as transporting large or awkward things.



Inside the Palais

From the Place d'Armes/St-Urbain end:

Tim Hortons

Doughnuts, coffee, soup, sandwiches

Mon-Fri 6am-10pm, Sat-Sun 6am-8pm.

Tim's is a Canadian national institution. You can get coffee and a doughnut for less than \$5, and lunch for around \$10.

La Popessa

Pasta

Mon-Fri 11am-10pm, Sat-Sun noon-10pm.

This place is fun. You choose a pasta and a sauce and any extras, then they make the food in front of you. It's interesting to see them tossing the things into your pan, and they're pretty quick, though you might have to wait if they're really busy. They have a whole lot of sauces, including many vegetarian and many without tomato—the stroganoff is especially good. There's something about it of the university dining hall, but the food is pretty good. \$10-15.

Couche-Tard

Convenience store

Mon-Fri 6am-midnight, Sat-Sun 7:30anı-11 pm.
Suitable for picking un chips take out cardboard se

Suitable for picking up chips, take out cardboard sandwiches, chocolate bars, coffee and hot-water-plus-teabags and cold drinks. Right across from this is a seating area with escalators to the second floor and nicer chairs than any of the cafes, so if what you want to do is sit down for a little bit, getting take out from here is a good option.

Subway

Fast-food sandwich chain

Mon-Fri 8am-10pm, Sat-Sun 8am-8pm. Bet you've seen one. Sandwiches, drinks, around \$10.

Basha

Lebanese

Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat-Sun may be closed. Lebanese fast-food restaurant, with sit-down space. Souvlaki, doner, kebabs, rice, salad, baklava, vegetarian platter. \$10-15. Also delivers

to hotels.

Terra Verte Italian

Pizza, panini, muffins, quiche, hot and cold drinks, small seating area. \$10. Reasonable vegetarian choice. Friendly staff.

Sushi Shop Sushi

Mon–Fri 11am–6pm, Sat–Sun closed. Limited but acceptable chain fast-food sushi. \$10-15.

Noo Box Asian noodles

Mon-Fri 11am-7pm, Sat-Sun 11:30am-3pm.

You select your vegetables, type of noodles or rice, sauce (from options such as "sweet teriyaki" and "chili basil and lemongrass"), protein source (includes both "vegetarian" and "fried tofu"), extras if you want them, and the meal is cooked for you. There's a reasonable amount of seating space, and prices vary from \$7.25 for vegetarian to \$9.50 for squid. Drinks are extra.

Café Van Houtte

Coffee, sandwiches

Mon–Fri 7am–5pm, Sat–Sun 8am–5pm.
Chain café along the lines of Starbucks or Second Cup. They sell cakes and sandwiches, but have an emphasis on complex varieties of coffee. Some seating area, and free wifi.

Fourquet Fourchette

Québécois

Mon-Wed 11:30am-4pm, Thu-Sat 11:30am-10pm, closed Sunday. Unlike all the others, this is a sit-down restaurant with waitstaff. It specialises in "the cuisine of New France." The lunch menu is around \$15-20 and the evening menu around \$25-50. It features lots of bison, duck, rabbit, etc., and beer as an ingredient. They serve a selection of local Unibrowe beers, and also cider. At lunch, the soup and salad is "all you can eat," and dessert and tea/coffee are included in the price. I had the "Amerindian tasting platter" and it was surprisingly delicious—smoked duck breast, smoked salmon, smoked caribou, trout terrine, and venison terrine. The home-made bread was also excellent. There's plenty of seating and they can make up tables for large parties. I'd recommend this for a hearty lunch that'll keep you going all day.

Around the Delta

Muffin Plus

Muffins, wraps, panini

740 Notre-Dame

\$5-10

Mon-Fri 6:30am-5pm, closed weekends.

Pub Victoria

British-style pub food

698 Notre-Dame

\$15-20

Mon-Wed 10:30am-10pm, Thurs-Fri 10:30am-11pm, closed weekends. Steak, pasta, burgers, sausages, fish & chips, draft beer, cider. This was incredibly busy on the weekday lunchtime we tried it, and became dead at about 2:00 as everyone went back to work. The food was indifferent. The décor was very much trying to evoke a British pub. The cider was good, but I wouldn't go back.

Le Muscadin

Italian

639 Notre-Dame

\$40

Lunch Mon-Frì 11:30am-2:30pm, dinner Mon-Sat 6pm-10pm, closed Sundays.

Dominos Pizza

Pizza

684 St-Jacques

\$5-10

Chez Ming

Vietnamese

1015 Côte du Beaver Hall

Vietnamese \$10

Chien Chaud Victoire 1025 Côte du Beaver Hall Hot dogs

Vivere! 55 de la Gauchetière Italian \$20-30

Between the Palais and the Delta

Toqué

900 Place Riopelle, 514-499-2084

Fancy French \$40-100

Tue-Sat 5:30pm-10:30pm, closed Sunday-Monday. Across the street from the southwest entrance to the Palais.

Le Steak Frites

Bistro

405 St-Antoine, 514-878-3553

\$15-20

Mon-Thu 11am-10pm, Fri-Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 4pm-10pm Steak, duck confit, all you can eat fries in a pleasant bistro atmosphere and right by the convention centre. Not much vegetarian. It's better (and cheaper) at lunch than dinner. They charge for all side dishes, and the steaks weren't all cooked as they had been ordered.

Via Vivoli

Italian

413 St-Jacques, 514-284-5320

\$10

Salads and pasta to eat in or take away. They also have gelato.

InterContinental food court

Food court

This is a large food court with a lot of seating and half a dozen fairly standard food-court options and a Leonidas Belgian chocolate shop. You can get a meal for around \$10. Busy at lunchtime.

Place Victoria

Food court

This is a huge food court with McDonalds, Oktoberfest, sushi, salads, etc. Busy on weekday lunchtimes, almost entirely closed on weekends.



Vieux-Montréal

Bio Train

Café Van Houte

This is the oldest part of Montréal, immediately to south (as such things are figured locally) of the Palais. The oldest buildings date to the 1600s, but it's hardly a museum—offices, apartments, and lots and lots of restaurants keep it current.

Rue St-Jacques, from McGill to St-Laurent

 410 St-Jacques, 514-842-9184
 Less than \$10

 Les Gourmet Pressés
 Café bio, gourmet sandwiches

 406 St-Jacques, 514-842-5525
 \$10

 Le Clafouti
 Sandwiches, café

 402 St-Jacques, 514-849-6756
 \$10

 Ora
 French

 400 St-Jacques, 514-848-0202
 \$30

Diner

Chain café, sandwiches, wifi

251 St-Jacques \$10

La Brioche St-Jacques Sandwiches, café

La Brioche St-Jacques

236 St-Jacques, 514-842-3079

Eggspectation

Sandwiches, cale

\$10

Breakfast, burgers

201 St-Jacques, 514-842-3079 \$15-20 Standard big breakfasts with lots of fruit, burgers, salads, desserts, etc. It's a chain that stretches at least as far as Ottawa. There's nothing wrong with Eggspectation, it's just not very exciting. Really convenient location, though

convenient location, though.

Papillon Bleu
200 St-Jacques, 514-849-8499
\$20

Romagna Café Breakfast, sandwich, pizza, Italian 60 St-Jacques, 514-844-1528 \$15

Rue Notre-Dame, from McGill to St-Laurent

Sushi Shop 430 Notre-Dame. 514-842-8518

Sushi \$15

Café 420 420 Notre-Dame, 514-844-1332

Sandwiches, café Less than \$10

Bistro Café Van

Café, sandwiches

401 Notre-Dame, 514-315-1188

Less than \$10

Boring, with pallid croissants, limp sandwiches and appalling choice of tea. Some places aren't worth going to twice. Save yourself the trouble and don't go once.

Szechuan

Chinese

400 Notre-Dame, 514-844-4456

\$20

Café Depôt 350 Notre-Dame

Café, sandwiches Less than \$10

Le Nantua 275 Notre-Dame, 514-288-4288

Seafood \$35

Pasta a Piacere

Italian

260 Notre-Dame, 514-842-3060

\$10-15

Boring. Boring pasta, boring pizza. Pleasant enough atmosphere, but don't bother.

Café Momus

Café, sandwiches, wifi

243 Notre-Dame, 514-848-0873

\$10

This place is lovely. The sandwiches are unusual, freshly made and delicious, with a good range, some vegetarian. The cakes and cookies are home made and great. They have a great choice of teas (loose teas, served in a teaball in a big cup), coffees, and cold drinks. The atmosphere is relaxed. They have some comfy chairs and some table seating. They have counter service and can get a little harried at busy times. Recommended.

Le Notre-Dame

Breakfast, fast food

237 Notre-Dame, 514-845-5757

Less than \$10

Though this looks like a total dump, appearances can be deceiving. This is a nice Greek restaurant with a good range of poutine and burgers etc., cheap and surprisingly cheerful. Recommended especially for people on a budget, and if you want to try Quebec's signature dish, poutine.

Da Franco 233 Notre-Dame, 514-844-9481 Italian \$15-20

Inside, this place is decorated like a Roman restaurant. The food is Italian with more range than just pasta. Everything we tried was good, and the straciatella soup outstanding. Better value for money at lunch than dinner.

Café Aszu

Fancy Canadian

210 Notre-Dame, 514-845-5436

\$20-30

Café Saison

Diner

207 Notre-Dame, 514-287-8985

\$10-15

Breakfast until 11am, sandwiches, light lunches. Generally pleasant atmosphere and perfectly acceptable food, let down by abysmal service—very slow and entirely forgot our drinks.

Tatami

Sushi

140 Notre-Dame, 514-845-5864

\$25

Eat fabulous artistic sushi atop fishtanks. Unusual maki pairings made with fresh ingredients and a light touch on flavourings. Light on the rice and heavy on the artistry. A beautiful meal well worth lingering over. The restaurant is not large, with fewer than 10 tables for four in the main room. Their menu is small but interesting, and focused more on maki than nigiri or sashimi. They have most of the traditional nigiri/sashimi, but seem more focused on spicy variants (spicy tuna, spicy salmon, etc.) than plain.

Claude Postel

Café, chocolatier, patisserie

75 Notre-Dame, 514-844-8750

\$15

Disappointing and over-priced.

Pizzedelic

Chain pizza, breakfast on weekends \$15

39 Notre-Dame, 514-286-1200

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La Sentence

Resto-Bistro \$20

17 Notre-Dame, 514-904-0213

Deli

Baguette 13 Notre-Dame, 514-844-1392

Less than \$10

Palais de Justice food court

Food court

480 St-Laurent, coin Notre-Dame

\$10

Starbucks, Arahova Souvlaki, Mon Plaisir Smoked Meat, fast food. As food courts go, this looks like a pretty good one. Arahova make notably good tzatziki.

Rue McGill, from St-Antoine to St-Paul

Presse Café 485 McGill, 514 285 2311 Chain café, sandwiches \$10

Plaza McGill 484 McGill, 514-866-2307 Deli, pizza, diner, breakfast \$15

This place has plenty of room. They serve nice standard North American breakfasts. Their dinner menu is diner food, with some Greek options. The prices are extremely good value for most things. Great with kids, some vegetarian choices. I wouldn't go out of my way for this, but if you're on a budget this is pretty good, and definitely one of the better breakfast choices. Closed weekends.

Boris Bistro

Nouvelle cuisine

465 McGill, 514-848-9575

\$30+

While it may call itself a bistro, this is in fact a trendy restaurant with some unusual food offerings, definitely tending to the small and beautifully laid out. There's an outdoor terrasse as well as a large indoor area. There's a great choice of wines, beers, and ciders. The cold soup was absolutely delicious. All the ingredients were carefully chosen and matched with each other. If you like your food in morsels, and money is no object, this might make a good choice for one evening of the con. If you're considering more expensive places because you want to have one splurge, this wouldn't be my choice.

Louigi 444 McGill, 514-393-1854 Pasta, pizza, Italian diner, breakfast

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\$10-20

McGill Hot Dog 433 McGill, 514-843-3483 Fast food Less than \$10

Restaurant Vallier 425 McGill, 514-843-3483 Bistro, wifi

\$15-30

The menu specialises in unusual takes on familiar food—duck shepherd's pie, lamb burger, etc. It's all absolutely delicious. Fries are served in a metal cup to keep them warm. Great choice of very good salads, and other vegetarian options. Wonderful-sounding desserts. Excellent choice of tea, wine, beer, cocktails, and did I mention tea? (Loose tea, served in a teapot with removable insert.) All this in a relaxed atmosphere with just the right degree of service, neither too attentive nor too slack. This is the kind of place that makes me glad I've got lots of friends to introduce it to. Highly recommended.

Holder 407 McGill, 514-849-0333

Nouvelle cuisine 49-0333 \$35

Nomad Station 407 McGill Café, wifi \$15

Rue St-Pierre, from St-Antoine to St-Paul

Titanic Sandwiches 445 St-Pierre, 514-849-0894 \$15

Resto-Bistro Cambo-Thai
425 St-Pierre, 514-849-0556
Pho, club sandwiches, etc.

Vietnamese, diner
\$10

Rue St-François-Xavier, from St-Antoine to St-Paul

Restaurant Bonaparte
447 St-François-Xavier, 514-844-4368

Casa de Mateo
440 St-François-Xavier, 514-844-7448

French
\$40+, Tasting menu \$62

Mexican
\$30

Luna d'Oro Café
415 St-François-Xavier, 514-288-1999 \$15

PastabilitéPasta214 St-Sacrament, coin St-François-Xavier, 514-982-0319\$15-\$20

Rue St-Laurent, from Notre-Dame to St-Antoine

McDonaldsFast food510 St-Laurent, 514-285-8720Less than \$10

Via BassanoItalian café520 St-LaurentLess than \$10

Mon Plaisir
530 St-Laurent, 514-750-8065
Pallid croissants, hot water with a teabag in the saucer, limp salads.

Avoid.

Rue St-Paul, from McGill to St-Laurent

Stew Stop

Bio-organic, nouvelle cuisine

362 St-Paul, 514-303-0370 Lots of vegetarian.

\$20

Olive et Gourmando

Sandwiches, croissants, pastries

351 St-Paul, 514-350-1083

\$15

Awesome. This is a place for a snack rather than a meal, but what they do is absolutely wonderful. Closed Sunday-Monday.

Marché de la Villette

French deli histro

325 St-Paul, 514-807-8084 Overpriced tourist trap. \$15-20

Les Pyrenées

Spanish

320 St-Paul, 514-842-5566

\$20-30

Restaurant Gandhi 230 St-Paul. 514-845-5866

Indian \$30

Van Winkle's Café 221 St-Paul, 514-843-7981

Sandwiches, café

\$15

Stash Café

Polish

200 St-Paul, 514-845-6611

Lunch \$15, dinner \$30-40

Booking a good idea. This place is wonderful. They have three prix-fixe menus or you can choose à la carte. The prix-fixe menus come with borsht and sour cream, salad, and dessert. The duck is good, the wild boar is better, but get the Polish delicacies menu and try everything. This is an absolutely terrific restaurant that scores all round, great atmosphere, great food, impeccable service. We loved it. Do try it.

Creperie Chez Suzette

Crepes, sandwiches, fondue

3 St-Paul Est, coin St-Laurent, 514-874-1984

\$10-20

古壁省華僑餐館司業會 ASSOCIATION DES RESTAURANTS CHIN IS DU DUÉBEC

Chinatown

Chinatown is right outside the Place d'Armes end of the Palais. It's a very good place to eat as long as you like Asian food. It isn't all Chinese, there's also a lot of Vietnamese, a little Japanese, Mongolian, Korean, and Uighyur. It tends to be very cheap—some lunches start at \$3.25. The only problem with it is that there's so much, and it's so hard to tell the good places from the indifferent places.

Rue St-Urbain

Noodle Factory

Chinese noodles

1018 St-Urbain, 514-868-9738

Less than \$10

Cash only. 11am-10pm. This place looks like a dump, but looks can be deceiving. The food is excellent, made pretty much in front of you. You can see them throwing the noodle dough around like pizza dough. It's very cheap, it's small and definitely not a place to linger, but everything we've tried has been lovely. Recommended, especially for a fast lunch.

La Maison Kam Fung

Chinese, dim sum

1111 St-Urbain, (514) 878-2888

\$10-15

This is the best dim sum in town, but they tend to be very busy indeed if you go at lunchtime. They open at 8am, and before 10:00 there are no carts, but you choose dim sum options from a menu. You can usually get seated right away even with a big group before about 10:30, 11:00 is okay, but later than that you always have to wait. They also have exceptionally good evening meals, from about 5pm, especially for large groups, including good vegetarian options. Highly recommended.

Rue Clark

Lotte Furama

Chinese, dim sum

1115 Clark, (514) 393-3388

\$10-20

8am-11:30pm. This is the restaurant that former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien prefers for dim sum. It's very nice, but they tend to have more dumplings and not enough other things for my taste.

New Dynasty

Chinese

1115 Clark, 514-871-8778

\$8-15

Cantonese food, plenty of room for groups. Not very exciting but perfectly good. You are expected to fill in your own order with pencil and paper provided.

Van Roy

Chinese

1095 Clark, 514-871-1724

Less than \$10

Mon Nan

Chinese

1096 Clark, 514-866-7123

Less than \$10

Another not terribly memorable Chinese restaurant, with a wide range of dishes. The prawn toast was too salty, but we enjoyed it otherwise. Not very adventurous, but with plenty of room.

La Maison V.I.P.

Chinese

1081 Clark, 514-861-1943

\$10

11:30am-4am. This is the standout brilliant restaurant that makes me glad I volunteered to write this guide. It looks identical to all the others, but it's wonderful. The first page of the menu features ordinary North American Chinese food. Then it gets weird and wonderful. Order the odd things you've never heard of, you won't be sorry. Also check out the specials on the blackboard. There's a mixed "bo-bo platter" that comes with a mini iron stove and is great for sharing. They are not large and get very busy; lunchtimes and early evenings are usually safe without booking, but it's a good idea if there are going to be a lot of you. This is a wonderful restaurant.

Ming Do

Dim sum, lunch, dinner

1050 Clark, 514-866-1668

\$10-20

They do a very good one- or two-person dim sum selection lunch, and have a pleasantly varied menu. If this restaurant were anywhere but across the street from Maison V.I.P., I'd be very happy with it.

Ruby Rouge

Dim sum, dinner \$10-20

1008 Clark, 514-390-8828

15

Boulevard St-Laurent

people when they're busy.

Pho Saigon

 Pho Vietnam
 Vietnamese

 970 St-Laurent, 514-954-9644
 \$8-15

 Pho Bang New York
 Vietnamese

 1003 St-Laurent, 514-954-2032
 \$8-15

 Pho Cali
 Vietnamese

 1011 St-Laurent, 514-876-1064
 \$8-15

Pho Bac Vietnamese 1016 St-Laurent, 514-393-8116 \$8-15

Vietnamese

1053 St-Laurent, 514-875-8388 \$8-15
These five are essentially identical Vietnamese restaurants, all with pretty much the same menu. I like Pho Vietnam best, but they're essentially interchangeable. They will all seat you at tables with other

Restaurant Hot Pot Chinese hot pot 1017 St-Laurent, 514-868-9901 \$10-15

Restaurant Hong Kong Chinese, dim sum, dinner 1019 St-Laurent, 514-861-0251 \$10-15 Standard perfectly good Chinese food, all the expected dishes, no-

Standard perfectly good Chinese food, all the expected dishes, nothing exciting. Plenty of room for groups.

Chez Bong
1021 A St-Laurent, 514-396-7779
\$10-15
Chicken teriyaki, beef bulgogi, seafood pancakes—this place does

Korean standards and does them well and cheaply. It's down steps from the street. Recommended.

Earth Village

Chinese

1051 St-Laurent \$8-15
Cristal No 1

Cristal No 1 Vietnamese
1068 St-Laurent, (514) 875-4275 \$8-15
This is a terrific Vietnamese restaurant, serving different things from

all the others, including lovely Mien soups as well as Pho. They get very full at lunchtime on weekdays, so try to get there early or late. Recommended.

Lieu O Vietnamese, karaoke 1071 St-Laurent, (514) 223-6045 \$10-20 My Canh

1086 St-Laurent, 514-398-9407

Vietnamese

\$8-15 This is the other standout Vietnamese restaurant. They have the freshest ingredients, best service, and largest menu. Whether you want Pho or something else, this is the best. We especially recommend saving room for the deep fried ice cream. If you can't get in. roll a die for any of the others.

Fung Shing

Chinese

1102 St-Laurent, 514-866-0469

\$10-15

Rue de la Gauchetière

Sai Gwan

Cantonese, Szechuan, Hong Kong

14 de la Gauchetière, 514-227-2868

Less than \$10

Patisserie Chow

Chinese bakery

16 de la Gauchetière, 514-904-0650

\$cheap

Not a restaurant, but a little place selling Chinese hot savoury buns and sweet cakes. Delicious and very good prices.

Magic Idea

Bubble tea, tea, Cantonese food

30 de la Gauchetiere, 514-868-0657

less than \$10

This is often busy with young people drinking bubble tea and playing games, but they have good tea and lots of small portions of food on the menu, which can make it a good place to go to talk.

Little Sheep Hot Pot

Mongolian

50 de la Gauchetiere, 514-393-0888

\$20

The idea is that you have a bowl of soup and select your own ingredients to cook in the broth. This would be a good idea if the soup was nice. The ingredients were a lot of fun and some of them (quail eggs, udon) very good, but it seemed overpriced for what we were getting, as we didn't enjoy the taste of the soup. Someone should try this concept with miso soup or a Chinese soup base.

Maxim

Chinese

51 de la Gauchetière, (514) 332-7528

\$10

Jardin de Jade

Chinese buffet

67 de la Gauchetière, 514-866-3127

\$10-15

M.M. Legende

Chinese

68 de la Gauchetière, 514-866-1628

Less than \$10

This place sells buns and cakes to take away, and serves Cantonese food (and, for some reason, toast and club sandwiches) in the back. It's very cheap and a bit more like being in someone's living room than a real restaurant.

Le Pavillion Nanpic

Chinese

75A de la Gauchetière, 514-395-8106

\$20

This is an overpriced tourist trap with okay food and knives and forks on the table. You can do much better.

Shaba Shabu

Japanese fondue

75 de la Gauchetière, 514-396-4746

\$15-20

Patisserie Callia

Chinese, bakery

78 de la Gauchetière

Another patisserie with a sit-down restaurant in the back, specialising in congee, toast, and standard lunches. The buns seem identical to all the other places, but they have a bigger range of weird cheesecakes by the slice.

Jardin du Nord

Guang Zhau

Szechuan

80 de la Gauchetière, 514-395-8023

\$15

Basilic 83 de la Gauchetière, (514) 875-1388

Viet-Thai \$15

05 de la Gadenetiere, (514) 675-1366

84 de la Gauchetière, (514) 397-9410

Cantonese, Szechuan

of de la Cadenetiere, (514) 597-94

\$10-15

Patisserie Harmonie

Chinese bakery

85 de la Gauchetière, 514-875-1328

\$cheap

Another patisserie selling buns and cakes, good value for money, and very nearby.

Mon Shing

Chinese

90 de la Gauchetière, 514-875-6395

less than \$10

Beijing

Chinese

92 de la Gauchetière, 514-861-2003

\$10-15

Totally awesome. Their cheap lunches are amazing, and their dinners are delightful. This is the best Chinese food in Chinatown. But book, because they're always packed even when there isn't a con. Don't even try for a weekend evening.



Worth Leaving the Palais Area

Schwartz's

Deli

3895 boulevard St-Laurent, 514-842-4813

\$10-15

Open Sun–Thu 8am–12:30am, Fri 8am–1:30am, Sat 8am–2:30am. Hot meat after 10am.

From the Palais:, take the 55 bus up St-Laurent. Get off at Napoleon and walk down the block.

Schwartz's claims to be the oldest deli in Canada, and it's certainly a Montreal tradition. In Schwartz's you can eat "smoked meat," a kind of brisket made with special spices. It's eaten hot, usually in sandwiches with rye bread. You can get it from a number of places, but the most famous and most authentic is Schwartz's. It's always full to bursting with a long line, often going out of the door and halfway down the block. Is it worth it? Lots of people think so. You can also get excellent salami, steak, chicken, pickles and fries. Line up at the right for takeout, and at the left to be seated.

Au Pied de Cochon

Meat

536 avenue Duluth Est, 514-821-1114

\$30-50

Open 5pm-midnight, closed Mondays. Booking essential.

From the Palais, take the metro direction Montmorency to Sherbrooke, then walk north on St-Hubert until you hit Duluth. Or take the 55 bus up St-Laurent to Duluth and walk east.

Au Pied de Cochon specialises in hearty delicious lumps of meat, especially pork—if you're a vegetarian, don't bother. It really is delicious, good quality food cooked in interesting ways. The starter plate of "cochonailles" or cold meats is a good introduction to the kinds of things on offer. If you're very hungry, there's a kilo lump of pork which once provided us with enough leftovers for two more meals. There's foie gras poutine, which is one of the most decadent things I've ever tasted. There's also draft beer and cider, and excellent desserts. If you're going to have one blowout meal, this would be a good choice.

La Raclette

Swiss

\$30

1059 rue Gilford, coin Christophe-Colomb, 514-524-8118

Open 6pm-midnight, closed Mondays. Booking a good idea on weekends. BYOB.

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From the Palais, take the metro direction Montmorency to Laurier, come out at the St-Joseph end, and walk east along Gilford.

This is a Swiss restaurant in a residential neighbourhood. It has an outdoor terrasse and a large pleasant interior. The menu reflects Swiss specialities—fondue and raclette (a plate of melted cheese) are strongly featured, but there's also a good choice of meat and fish. It's a good choice with a mixed party including some vegetarians who like cheese. There are two tables d'hôtes, with a lot of choice—the three-course Petit Cru or the five-course Grand Cru. The food is plentiful and delicious, the desserts are excellent, and the service is friendly without being annoying.

L'Atelier French tapas

\$50

5308 boulevard St-Laurent, 514-273-7442 \$
Tues-Fri 11:30-midnight; weekends 11:30-2pm for brunch, 5:30midnight for dinner Booking a good idea but not always essential

midnight for dinner. Booking a good idea but not always essential. From the Palais, take a 55 bus up St-Laurent to Rue Maguire.

Atelier means "workshop," and that is pretty much what this is. There are multi-course tasting menus, or you can put together your own choices. This is all about having small portions of lots of things—a single ravioli, three thimble-sized crème brulées, a bite sized steak with a slice of truffle. It's an unforgettable experience, and tons of fun. All the food is "terroir," meaning locally sourced, in season, and often organic. The cheese plate is incomparable. If you're the sort of person who's always wanting to have multiple starters rather than one main course, you'll enjoy this.

La Bohème French provincial 3625 rue St-Denis, 514-286-6659 \$15-30

Open 11am-11pm, closed Mondays.

From the Palais, take the metro direction Montmorency to Sherbrooke, exit onto St-Denis.

La Bohème serves the kind of food you get in France—not fancy meals with odd sauces, but lots of organ meats, duck confit, great soups, and hearty main courses. They do prix-fixe lunches with soup and dessert for around \$15. You really don't have to spend more than that for good French food.

Bières et Compagnie Belgian 4350 rue St-Denis, 514-844-0394 \$15-30

From the Palais, take the metro direction Montmorency to Sherbrooke, and walk north for several blocks.

This is a Belgian restaurant specialising in mussels and beer. The beer menu is longer than the food menu. The non-mussels portion of the food menu tends to feature things cooked in beer.

Villa Wellington

Peruvian \$15-20

4701 rue Wellington, 514-768-0102

Open 11am–midnight, closed Mondays. From the Palais, take the 61 bus south from Square Victoria.

The menu here is bilingual French/Spanish, and only a few of the wait-staff speak any English. They're friendly, though. Peruvian food is heavy on guacamole, yucca, grilled meat and fish, and lime marinades. Jalea is a pile of fish and seafood bigger than your head. Papa rellena is a potato layer with minced lamb, onion, olive, and boiled egg inside. The vegetarian options are unusual and popular with my vegetarian friends. All the main course portions are huge. I especially recommend the lamb chops. The desserts aren't worth the trouble.

Shambala

Tibetan

3439 rue St-Denis, 514-842-2242

\$10-15

Open Mon-Wed noon-10pm, Thu-Fri noon-11pm, weekends 5pm-11pm. Booking not essential, but might be an idea with a big group, as there are only a few big tables.

From the Palais, take the metro direction Montmorency to Sherbrooke, get off onto St. Denis and walk downhill, it's very close.

The decor is traditional Plateau French Victorian—ornate wood, overlaid with Tibetan drapes and chimes and pictures, which makes it seem somehow as if the Tibetans had colonized France, or perhaps the other way around. There are a lot of kinds of delicious dumplings, halfway between a won-ton and a pierogi, awesome soups, and more Indian-style vegetables with rice. Lots of vegetarian choice, some meat as well. The breads are great. You will, of course, order butter tea whatever I say, because you've read about it all your life. One between you will do!

Troïka

Russian

2171 rue Crescent, 514-849-9333

\$40-60

Open 5pm–11pm. Booking a good idea but not essential. From the Palais, walk or take a 55 bus up St-Laurent to St-Laurent metro, go on green line direction Angrignon to Peel, come out onto Stanley, walk along Maissoneuve west to Crescent.

The style here is definitely Tsarist Russia, and with a whole pile of vodka and caviar choices, you can definitely get decadent enough to encourage the peasants to rise up and overthrow you. All the food is

very good, especially the pelimeni (dumplings) and borsht (soup) but I recommend the wild boar with foie gras for pure melt-in-the-mouth delicious. The desserts are great, too. I tend to think of this as a winter treat destination, but it is sufficiently air-conditioned to make you feel as if it's cold outside.

Le Georgia

Georgian

5112 boulevard Décarie, 514-482-1881

\$25-40

Open weekdays noon–10pm, weekends 2pm–midnight. From the Palais, take the metro direction Côte Vertu to Snowdon, walk west down Côte St-Mary to Décarie, and then turn north.

Georgian food is like Russian only spicier, closer to Hungarian. There are an interesting variety of dumplings and goulashes.

Azuma

Japanese

5263 rue St-Laurent, 514-271-5263

\$20-30

Open for lunch 11am–3pm weekdays, and for dinner 3pm–11pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. No need to book.

From the Palais, take a 55 bus north on St-Laurent to Rue Maguire.

"I haven't had that since I was in Japan," was the refrain of one friend we took to Azuma. They have all the things you would expect, but try the things you don't see everywhere. The sole in lemon sauce is wonderful, the oyakodon is my new comfort food, and they always have daily specials that are worth investigating. Oh, and the mixed vegetable tempura includes lotus root and other very unusual vegetables. Vegetarians can do well here. At lunchtime they have a limited menu. The "whatever we have today bento" is often excellent. The staff are really friendly and I've never had a bad meal here.

Isakaya

Japanese

3469 avenue du Parc, 514-845-8226

\$30-40

Open Wed-Fri 11:30am-2pm, 6pm-9:30pm, Sat-Sun 5:30pm-9pm, closed Monday and Tuesday. Booking recommended. From the Palais, take an 80 bus from Place d'Armes to Rue Milton. Or walk about 1 km up Rue de Bleury (becomes Ave du Parc).

This is a Japanese/French fusion restaurant, where they serve sushi but also eel en croute and other Japanese kinds of food with French sauces and vice-versa. It can be a little surreal sometimes.

Toyo

Japanese

2155 rue de la Montagne, 514-844-9292

\$30

Open Mon–Fri 11:30am–2:30pm, 4:30pm–10pm, Sat 4:30pm–11pm, Sun 4:30pm–10pm. Booking a good idea with large groups. From the Palais, take a 61 bus north from Square Victoria to McGill and Ste-Catherine, then walk west to Montagne and then north. Or

take the metro to Berri-UQAM, change to the green line direction Angrignon to Peel, and walk west three blocks on Maisonneuve.

Teppenyaki, which means they cook the food on a hot table in front of you, with much flame and excitement. The food is always delicious, and the cooking is entertaining. Ideal for a group of up to eight.

Senzala

Brazilian

177 rue Bernard Ouest, 514-274-1464

\$10-20

Breakfasts Thursday–Sunday, dinner every day. From the Palais, take an 80 bus to Bernard, then walk east two blocks.

With fresh ingredients and an unusual style, Senzala is worth going out of the way for. They have excellent meat and great vegetarian choices; the breakfasts are unusual and very nice. There's a terrasse outside.

Chase

Lebanese

5672 avenue de Monkland, 514-482-2256

\$10-20

Open 11am-11pm daily, no real need to book except maybe with a huge group on a Saturday.

From the Palais, take the metro direction Côte Vertu to Villa Maria, then take a 103 bus and get off at Oxford.

Chase does all the standard Lebanese things, but it does them very well. They make their own hummus. They also do more unusual things—grilled quail, fish and lamb—and they have a whole page of vegetarian options. The staff are very friendly. This is an ideal place to go if you have some meat eaters and some vegetarians and don't want to spend a fortune.

Le Petit Café Byblos

Persian

1499 avenue Laurier Est, 514-523-9396

\$10-20

Open 9am-11pm, closed Mondays.

From the Palais, take the metro direction Montmorency to Laurier, and walk east.

Byblos is a Babylonian restaurant—the people are from Iran, and they describe their food as the family cuisine of the Middle East. Everything is top quality. The specials tend to be rice-based or couscous-based and have one meat and one vegetarian option. I've had lovely things and very odd things. They're very creative with their spices and combinations, and while sometimes this works incredibly well, other times it can be very peculiar. On some Sunday nights they do a special thing with lamb and herbs (or vegetables and herbs) in a kind of casserole in a stone jar. It's delicious but very messy to eat.

Magdala Ethiopian

1222 rue Bishop, 514-866-7667

Open 4:30pm-11pm, closed Monday.

From the Palais, take the metro direction Côte-Vertu to Lucien-L'Allier, walk up Lucien-l'Allier to René-Lévesque, left and then right onto Bishop.

Magdala is by far the most authentic Ethiopian food around. Prices are good, and the portions are reasonable. It has both meat (beef, chicken, lamb) and vegetarian dishes.

Café Santropol

Sandwiches, salads, wifi

3990 rue St-Urbain, 514-842-3110

less than \$10

Open 11:30am–10pm.

From the Palais, take a 55 bus up St-Laurent to Duluth, and walk two blocks west on Duluth to St-Urbain.

Hippie décor of gloriously mismatched chairs, pressed tin ceiling tiles on the walls, pleasant eat-in garden. A neighbourhood fixture. Mostly large sandwiches (some of them are odd, hippie sandwiches—largely ovo-lacto vegetarian but with add-on options of roast beef, ham, or chicken) on their own heavy, brown, moist bread, each garnished with a mass of whatever fruit and vegetables they have on hand that day, but they also serve salads and chili and soup and some vegetarian pies. Dozens of teas, coffees, and fizzy, syrup-flavoured drinks. A place to sit for an afternoon and chat.

La Binerie Mont-Royal

Diner

367 avenue du Mont-Royal E, 514-285-9078

less than \$10

Open Mon-Fri 6am-8pm, Sat-Sun 7:30am-3pm.

From the Palais, take the metro direction Montmorency to Mont-Royal, and walk west one block.

If you're not after fancy, but want a taste of traditional Quebec cooking, this is the place. A hole in the wall, but they serve tourtière (meat pie) and cretons (pork spread) and, of course, fèves au lard (baked beans). Breakfast all day. The pouding chômeur (poor man's pudding) is right and the price is low.

Yakimono

Kosher sushi

4210 boulevard Décarie, 514-484-1515

Pareve. Delicious and highly recommended. From the Palais, take the metro direction Côte Vertu to Villa Maria.

Morty's Steakhouse

Kosher steakhouse

5395 chemin Queen Mary, 514-481-2000

Well thought of locally. From the Palais, take the metro direction Côte Vertu to Snowdon, and walk downhill three blocks.

El Morocco

Kosher

3450 rue Drummond, 514-844-6888

Meat, Middle Eastern style. From the Palais, take the 61 north to Ste-Catherine and walk along until you get to Drummond, or take the metro direction Montmorency to Berri-UQAM, change onto the green line direction Angrignon, get out at Peel at the Stanley exit, and walk one block west and one block north.

Rumi

Halal

4403 boulevard St-Laurent, 514-670-6770

Traditional Persian food, halal meat and vegetarian. From the Palais, take a 55 bus to Marie-Anne.

Halal 786

Halal

786 rue Jean-Talon Ouest, 514-270-0786

Widely considered the best Pakistani restaurant in Montréal. From the Palais take the 80 bus north to Parc metro and then walk east on Jean-Talon.

Le Commensal

Vegetarian buffet

1204 avenue McGill Collège, 514-871-1480

1720 rue St-Denis, 514-845-2627

These places sell food by weight, in a cafeteria system. Everything is vegetarian and there's a big range of things. Beware of getting more than you can eat if you don't have a fridge. From the Palais to the McGill Collège (not Rue McGill) location, walk to the Hilton, up the hill on University for a couple blocks, then left on Cathcart. For St-Denis, take the metro direction Montmorency to Berri-UOAM.

Yuan

Vegetarian

400 rue Sherbrooke Est, 514-848-0513

This is a Taiwanese vegetarian restaurant my veg friends really enjoyed. From the Palais take the metro direction Montmorency to Sherbrooke, come out onto St-Denis, and walk south one block.

Bonnys

Vegetarian

1748 rue Notre-Dame Ouest, 514-931-4136 Take a 36 bus south from Square Victoria.

Chalet Barbecue

Rotisserie chicken

5456 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, 514-489-7235

\$10-15

This is where the Swiss Chalet chain of restaurants got its start, but this one has stayed true. They don't have a large menu—just chicken, fries, sauce, a couple of salads and desserts. From the Palais, take the metro direction Côte-Vertu to Vendôme.



Tea in Montréal

The general standard of tea is better than in the U.S., but there still tend to be "hot water with a teabag in the saucer" incidents. In walking distance of the Palais, there's **Café Momus** (243 Notre-Dame) and **Vallier** (425 McGill), plus the first two below.

Ming Tao Xuan

451 rue St-Sulpice, 514-845-9448.

This place is awesome, it's full of museum quality Chinese statues and teapots, and has four tables. They serve dim sum-style snacks, and a variety of wonderful Chinese teas, in appropriate pots, on trays. They come over and make the first pot for you, as a demonstration, and are quite happy for you to sit there for hours drinking tea slowly and talking. \$5-10 for a pot of tea. They also sell loose tea. Open 11am-7pm.

Hôtel Le St-James

355 rue St-Jacques, 514-841-3111

They do an afternoon tea service daily from 2:30pm—5pm in their splendid Victorian dining room. The splendor is rather more impressive than the tea, though the way the white-coated waiters pour it individually has to be seen to be believed. For \$30 I want more than one cucumber sandwich, one salmon sandwich and one scone with my pot of tea, but you can't deny you get it in style. It's very formal indeed, so dress up. But we were still hungry when we left.

Camellia Sinensis

351 rue Émery, 514-286-4002

From the Palais take the metro direction Montmorency, get out at Berri-UQAM, take the St-Denis exit from the metro, walk north up St-Denis to Emery, from the corner you can see the giant teapot that is the sign. Again, they sell tea and are a tea house. There's an incredible variety of tea from around the world, served in beautiful pots. They also have cakes and desserts. Beautiful décor, relaxed atmosphere, a lovely place to hang out. \$3-6 for tea, \$3-8 for cakes. Open noon–11pm, very busy late afternoon and early evening. Very knowledgeable staff. Highly recommended.

Cha Noir

4646 rue Wellington, 514-769-1242

Near De L'Eglise metro, but from the Palais you can take a 61 bus south from Square Victoria and it takes you pretty much directly there. With a more Middle Eastern than Asian ambiance, Cha Noir has all kinds of tea, including English-style with milk and sugar, unlike most tea houses in Montréal. They also serve a terrific cheese plate, individual chocolates, and desserts. They sell loose teas, including their own blends. \$3-7 for tea, \$3-10 for food. Open noon–10pm. Highly recommended.

Cha Guan

5756 avenue de Monkland, 514-303-8238

From the Palais, take the metro direction Côte Vertu, get out at Villa Maria and take a 103 bus down Monkland, getting off at Melrose. (These guys clearly did detailed customer research before deciding to open in walking distance of my house.) Great range of Chinese teas, huge range of iced teas, lovely Chinese ambiance, low tables, teas for sale, desserts, very friendly staff. \$5-10 for tea, \$5 or so for cakes.

The Gryphon d'Or Tea Room

5968 avenue de Monkland, 514-485-7377

(Directions as above.) British style tea room, with British style tea in blends made with boiling water and served with scones. Afternoon tea with 24 hours notice. Open Mon-Tue 10am-5pm, Wed-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-5pm, closed Sunday.

Café Grand

6202 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, 514-303-6425

From the Palais, take the metro direction Montmorency to Vendôme and then take a 105 and get off at Grand, directly opposite the cafe. Huge variety of good quality teabags, excellent sandwiches and salads, truly astonishing waffles with hot chocolate sauce and sliced strawberries, croissants, and they'll give you as much hot water as you like. Very friendly staff. Tea is \$3, lunch is about \$10.

Brûlerie St-Denis

Chain, variously around Montréal.

Despite being a coffee specialist, they have excellent tea in a huge variety, and served in teapots. I always hope for one. \$3.50 for tea.

Toi, Moi & Café

Notre-Dame by Marché Atwater; another on Laurier West near Parc They're a café serving decadent breakfasts, lunches and dinners, excellent desserts, and they have real tea and know how to make it.



Bagels

Montréal is famous for its bagels, hand-formed and baked in wood-fired ovens. These are the most authentic.

St-Viateur Bagel

263 rue St-Viateur Ouest, 514-270-2972 24 hours! Take an 80 bus north to St-Viateur.

St-Viateur Bagel & Café

1127 avenue du Mont-Royal Est, 514-528-63615629 avenue de Monkland, 514-487-8051

5:30am-midnight.

Fairmount Bagels

74 avenue Fairmount Ouest, 514-272-0667 24 hours! Take a 55 bus north to Fairmount.

Brew pubs

Montréal has three great pubs where they brew their own beer. They all serve food, and they're all worth checking out.

Le Cheval Blanc

809 rue Ontario Est, 514-522-0211

Take the metro direction Montmorency to Sherbrooke, and walk south on St-Hubert.

Dieu de Ciel

29 avenue Laurier Ouest, 514-490-9555

Take an 80 bus north to Laurier, and it's about a block west.

Brutopia

¥ 1215 rue Crescent, 514-393-9277

Either take a 61 north to Ste-Catherine and then walk west to Crescent and then north, or take the metro to Berri and change to the green line, direction Angrignon, get off at Peel, walk west to Crescent.

Services

Supermarket

There's a large IGA on the corner of St-Urbain and René-Lévesque, which probably has enough for most people's supermarket needs. There are also three bakeries and many groceries in Chinatown, for fruit, buns, cooked ducks, etc.

Pharmacy

There's a decent medium-sized pharmacy on the corner of Viger and St-Urbain, just outside the Place d'Armes exit of the Palais. It's open until 9pm daily. [Sadly, it's no longer the Neo-Phan pharmacy, but we couldn't resist the picture.]

Office Supplies

There's a huge Bureau en Gros (Staples) behind the Delta, at 770 Notre-Dame.

Party Supplies

For party supplies, or more extensive shopping, I recommend going a couple miles west on Notre-Dame to Marché Atwater and Super-C. (The 36 bus runs along here from Square Victoria, or you can take the metro direction Côte Vertu and get off an Lionel Groulx and walk south.) Super-C is a huge discount superstore, good for flats of cans, beer, potato chips, paper plates etc. Marché Atwater is a market, part Farmers' Market and part delicatessen. You can get anything here in the way of fruits and vegetables, cold meats, cheeses, exotic chocolate, pates, etc. There are also two SAQs here, one giant one and a small one in the market that specialises in local products. If you enjoyed the ice cider in Anticipation's bid parties, this is where it came from.

Banks with ATMs

Banque National—500 Place d'Armes, 600 de la Gauchetière Desjardins—900 Viger Ouest CIBC—265 St-Jacques Ouest HSBC—88 René-Lévesque Ouest Bank of Montréal—61 René-Lévesque Ouest Banque Scotia—437 St-Jacques TD—1401 Bleury

Currency Exchange/Bureaux de Change

380 St-Antoine Quest

1008 Rue Clark

1112 St-Laurent

1070 St-Laurent

Post Office

Postes Canada has a branch in the Palais, down the corridor with the Couche-Tard and the Subway.

Kanji Laundry Service

1235 rue Notre-Dame Ouest, 514-501-3577

Pick-up, wash, dry, fold, deliver, \$1.50/lb min 15lbs. No self-service. Seems to require some sort of registration.

Buanderie Du Village

laundry

1499 rue Amherst, 514-526-4084 (1.9 km / 1.1 miles)

Mon-Sat 9am-7pm, Sunday 11am-7pm.

\$9.00-\$9.50/load for wash, dry, fold, usually the same day, depending on when you bring it in. Self-service available. No pick up or delivery.

Buanderie Du Parc

laundry

3486 avenue du Parc, 514-885-6478 (1.3 km / 0.8 miles)

Mon-Sat 9:30am-10pm, Sunday noon-10pm.

Self-service, possibly wash/fold as well.

Credits

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