



BARGAIN BITTES 2010

BEST PLACES TO EAT *CHEAP*



FROM THE FOOD STAFF OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Italian

Huge sandwiches, terrific pizzas and a variety of pastas are among the standouts

Bobby G's Pizzeria

The extensive menu reads more like a neighborhood Italian restaurant, but the place lives up to its name with signature thin-crust pizzas (as well as Sicilian and pan-fried pies). The Meat Lovers Pie is a good place to start, though the slightly more adventurous can go for the Clam and Garlic Pie with its playful touch of lemon.

Cuisine: Italian.

Vitals: 2072 University Ave. (near Shattuck), Berkeley; (510) 665-8866. Lunch, dinner daily.

Genova Delicatessen

Want a sensational sandwich? There are 14 bread choices, some 30 meats, a half-dozen salads, ten cheeses, and 16 toppings like cranberry sauce or muffuletta. Go for a creative combo like peppered ham, fresh-made mozzarella and zingy marinated mushrooms on focaccia. For an even bigger meal, grab prepared deli delights like lasagna, ravioli and juicy roast chicken.

Cuisine: Italian, American

Vitals: 1550 Trancas St. (at Baxter), Napa; (707) 253-8686. Breakfast, lunch, early dinner daily.

Goat Hill Pizza

Known for its crisp sourdough crust, this 35-year Potrero Hill fixture offers 10 standard combinations and a pizza of the day and served with house-made sauce. The menu also offers spaghetti, lasagna, ravioli, salads, minestrone and daily soups.

Cuisine: Italian

Vitals: 300 Connecticut St. (at 18th Street), San Francisco; (415) 641-1440. Lunch through dinner daily.

Lucca Delicatessen

Unless your boss is Mike Singletary, you'd best bring a friend to split one of the huge sandwiches at this vintage 1930 deli. It's a classic S.F. shotgun shop, with takeout only. Try a combo or create your own from a dizzying array of options — 36 meats, 12 cheeses, 14 breads, plus extras such as avocado.

Cuisine: Italian deli
Vitals: 2120 Chestnut St. (near Pierce), San Francisco; (415) 921-7873. Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

Pasta Bene

Pasta isn't all this table-service spot has to offer. There are sandwiches, pizzas, salads and chicken parmigiana. Seating is plentiful, making it a great meeting place for large parties, and the service is friendly. Its biggest claim to fame is its tiramisu.

Cuisine: Italian
Vitals: 2565 Telegraph Ave. (near Blake), Berkeley; (510) 845-2363. Lunch, dinner daily.



Paul Chinn / The Chronicle

Customers wait in the narrow aisle to order sandwiches at Lucca Delicatessen in S.F.

Tony Tutto

Greg DiGiovine, a.k.a. Tony Tutto, is living his dream — transforming himself from a career managing rock stars to making fresh, crispy-crust vegetarian pizzas using his Italian family's recipes. He has no freezer, no cans, not even a computer, but he does keep a good selection of craft beers and sustainable wines to go with the savory pies.

Cuisine: Italian/
California
Vitals: 246 E Blithedale Ave, Mill Valley; (415) 383-8646. Lunch, dinner Wed.-Sun.; dinner Mon. Cash or local checks only.