

*In reading the next several pages, you will certainly come to know one thing about me – I LOVE to eat. Be sure to check out the websites to make sure a restaurant of interest is open before going. (Many places are closed on Mondays, random ones are closed on Tuesdays, and several take a week or two off at a time for vacation.) I always make a reservation when possible. This list is in NO PARTICULAR ORDER but I have highlighted some of my personal favorites!!!*

## **CASUAL AND/OR QUICK BITES:**

**Company Burger** - <http://www.thecompanyburger.com/> - without question the best burger I've ever had in my life. Wins awards constantly...an absolute must-try in my book. Get the tater tots and indulge in the carrot cake for dessert. The closest one to campus is on Freret, and a second location with a full bar (and great happy hour) is now open in the CBD near the Superdome.

**St. James Cheese Company** – <http://www.stjamescheese.com/> - great for a quick lunch (gourmet sandwiches and salads) Uptown, just a short drive from campus. Another location is in the Warehouse District.

**Parkway** - <http://www.parkwaypoorboys.com/> - near the Bayou in Mid-City. Credited with inventing the “poor boy”. Was under 6 feet of water after Katrina. Catfish and shrimp are probably my favorite po boys there, with roast beef a close second. Fries with debris are pretty good. Has lots of outdoor space. Don't be too discouraged by the long line...it usually moves pretty quickly. If you can get a seat at the bar, you can order there and skip the line entirely.

**Willa Jean** - <http://www.willajeane.com/> - very good place in the South Market district/CBD area. It's casual, but they take reservations. This is a place where you will want to indulge! Just do yourself a favor and go...I love lunch there, and it's a GREAT breakfast spot, too! The pimento cheese, artichoke dip, grain bowl, and avocado toast are some of my favorite dishes.

**Café du Monde** – <http://www.cafedumonde.com/> - yes, it's touristy, but the locals love it, too! What the tourists don't always realize is that you seat yourself. Most of them will wait in line to be seated at one of the tables outside, but there's not really a host to do that so you have to be pretty assertive. The trick is to go at an off-peak time (i.e. NOT for breakfast), check **inside** for an open table, and act like a regular – make eye contact with one of the servers so they know you sat down. Cash only. (There is also a location at City Park – MUCH less crowded)

**Pizza Domenica** - <http://www.pizzadomenica.com/> - same amazing Neapolitan-style pizza as the Domenica downtown, but this one is located uptown. The cauliflower and garlic knots are things you will dream about.

**District Donuts** - <http://districtdonuts.com/> - just go and don't feel guilty about eating a ham & cheese sandwich served on a donut.

**Central City BBQ** – [www.centralcitybbq.com](http://www.centralcitybbq.com) – extensive – and very delicious – menu!

**Shawarma on the Go** - <http://www.shawarmaonthego.com/> - I realize this sounds crazy, but stop into this gas station for some ridiculously good shawarma (and more) when you're strolling Magazine St! So damn good.

**Cochon Butcher** – <http://www.cochonbutcher.com/> - Cochon is the better-known sit-down sister restaurant in the front of the building, but Butcher is a GEM of a sandwich shop. Order at the counter and they'll bring everything to you. The menu changes, but the turkey sandwich has been my favorite. The pulled pork is also amazing.

**Dat Dog** – <http://datdognola.com/> - they have two locations a short distance from campus for awesome hot dogs/sausages and a great locals vibe, along with another in the Marigny. Lots of outdoor space to enjoy the non-summer months!

**Ajun Cajun** – [www.ajuncajun.com](http://www.ajuncajun.com) - Japanese/Cajun fusion. Well known for their soft shell crab poboys at JazzFest. AMAZING ramen.

**Stein's** - <http://steinsdeli.net/home/> - it's the best of a New York Jewish deli in the Garden District.

**Pizza Delicious** - <http://pizzadelicious.com/> - delicious (obviously) New York-style pizza in a small space in the Bywater. Give yourself some time to get there and back from Uptown – and although it's not always the case, be prepared for a wait. Take a walk over the Piety Street bridge and wander Crescent Park along the river while you're there.

**Rum House** - <http://www.therumhouse.com/> - a locals' favorite and ALWAYS busy. Prepare to wait, but the food is SO GOOD! They have lots of tacos and Caribbean-inspired fare. I love the nachos in particular...enough to feed more than one person.

**Turkey & The Wolf** - <http://www.turkeyandthewolf.com/> - overhyped in my opinion, but the food is good and it's worth trying!

**Willie Mae's Scotch House** – <http://www.williemaesnola.com/> - You've probably seen it on the hit HBO show or featured on the Food Network. It is becoming a bit of a tourist destination, but it remains among the best fried chicken I have ever had in my life – and I grew up in the south! By noon there is usually a line down the block, so it's always best to go early – it opens at 10:30 and there will be a line by 11. Dinner isn't AS busy, but they close early (around 8:00).

**Katie's** - <http://www.katiesinmidcity.com/> - I like it for more than its name. The bacon bleu fries are outrageously good. I'm also a huge fan of the po boys.

**High Hat Café** - <http://highhatcafe.com/> - casual sit-down place on Freret that is a solid go-to for me. Great fried catfish, but also has a good selection of comfort foods. The pimento mac & cheese is a must.

**St. Roch Market** - <http://www.strochmarket.com/> - a beautiful spot in the St. Roch neighborhood all the way over in Marigny/Bywater. Several food vendors are there, so you can pick and choose what you want.

**Picnic Provisions & Whiskey** - <https://nolapicnic.com/> - it's not fried chicken the way you would normally have it (everything has been boneless when I've been there), but it's pretty good! It definitely has a kick, so you need to appreciate a little spice. The cornbread is a real treat. Get the pimento cheese to start.

**1000 Figs** – <http://www.1000figs.com/> - small Mediterranean place in Mid-City for great falafel and salads.

**Copper Vine** - <https://www.coppervinewine.com/> - good place for lunch in the CBD/near the Superdome. Food is really good and they have an impressive wine list. The patio is quite charming!

**Bourre** – <http://www.bourreenola.com/#about-bourree> - Good for a quick snack of wings, Cajun snacks, and made-from-scratch daiquiris.

**El Pavo Real** - <http://www.elpavorealnola.com/> - very authentic, fresh, and delicious Mexican food at the corner of Fontainebleau and Broad. The guacamole is fantastic! I love the hanger steak tacos with a side of black beans, but the carnitas entrée is AMAZING!

**Domilise's** – [www.domilisespoboy.com](http://www.domilisespoboy.com) – over 100 year old restaurant for overstuffed poboy and beer. It's a must-try for everyone who visits and legendary to locals

## **“MORE CASUAL THAN NOT” DINING:**

*Some of these are open for lunch – check the website!*

**The Bower** - <https://www.thebownola.com/> - beautifully designed space with a menu (that I love) to match it. Lots of covered outdoor space. There is a large bar behind the restaurant that is perfect for drinks/snacks.

**Bijou** - <https://www.bijouneworleans.com/> - eclectic variety on the menu, great cocktails, beautiful space. I'm a fan of the tuna tartare, steak, artichokes, tom yum chicken (GET IT), squid ink spaghetti.

**Gris-Gris** - <https://grisgrisenola.com/> - southern fare that is really good. The first floor has a chef's table for 15, but there is additional seating and a bar upstairs. The balcony is perfect when the weather is nice! The chicken & dumplings are awesome.

**Three Muses** - [www.thethreemuses.com/](http://www.thethreemuses.com/) - excellent small plates menu (mac & cheese is my favorite, along with lamb sliders and lobster spring rolls) with really great cabaret entertainment. Fun place on Frenchmen St. – the best part of town to catch live music.

**Jamila's** – [www.jamilascafe.com](http://www.jamilascafe.com) – Tunisian/Mediterranean – reliable place when you just want something different. They have belly dancers on Saturday nights!

**Peche** – <http://www.pecherestaurant.com/> - a Donald Link restaurant that is a seafood-lover's paradise, although I also think they have some of the best steak tartare in town. This is another place to share dishes – everything is just so good! Fun fact: they were the first restaurant in New Orleans to have won the James Beard Award for “Best New Restaurant” in America!

**Country Club** - <http://www.thecountryclubneworleans.com/> - GORGEOUS restaurant and bar. Best macaroni & cheese in NOLA. There is a pool out back with another bar and outdoor kitchen (usually comes with a cover charge). MUST BE 21.

**Tito's** - <http://www.titoscevicepisco.com/> - great Peruvian food in a small but bustling space (also have outdoor seating). Dishes are really fresh, tasty, and generous portions! The ceviche is all great, and I also like the arroz con mariscos.

**Meril** - <http://emerilsrestaurants.com/meril> - the newest of Emeril Lagasse's restaurants. Large open kitchen with a worldly menu.

**Superior Seafood** – <http://www.superiorseafoodnola.com/> - at the intersection of St. Charles and Napoleon. Easy and reasonably priced. The BEST chargrilled oysters in town (in my opinion), and the salmon salad is excellent. Also a good place to try fried alligator. Great happy hour specials. Love the frozen French 75.

**Boucherie** - <http://boucherie-nola.com/> - on South Carrollton, not far from campus. Always delicious, although the service can be slow at times. You absolutely must try the Krispy Kreme bread pudding.

**N7** - <https://www.n7nola.com/> - kinda bizarre place. Specializes in French cuisine, but sometimes with a Japanese touch – and they have a lot of canned meats and fish on the menu. It's in the Bywater and the space is interesting. Reservations are limited, and it's a little hard to find. The mussels are fantastic. Only go if you're in the mood for a slow and leisurely meal.

**Apolline** – <http://apollinerestaurant.com/> - cute restaurant with a great menu in a shotgun double on Magazine. One of those places where everyone should share because you're all going to want a taste of everything. Be sure to get a side of the corn maque choux.

**Tsunami** - <http://www.servingsushi.com/neworleans> - beautiful space downtown that serves great sushi. They have a very extensive menu and the daily specials are always a treat!

**Sylvain** - <http://www.sylvainnola.com/> - there is something for everyone here. Creative dishes that are just downright GOOD. I love the Chick Sylvain sandwich and bolognese dishes. It can get really loud when you sit inside, but they also have a great patio out back.

**Mandina's** - <http://mandinasrestaurant.com/> - classic NOLA fare that's NOT in the middle of the French Quarter. They have a little something for everyone. You'll be stuffed by the time you leave.

**SoBou** - <http://www.sobounola.com/> - from the family of restaurants that includes Commander's Palace. The yellowfin tuna cones and sweet potato beignets with duck debris are a must. Good place to try boudin if you've never had it. Drag queen brunch on Sundays.

**Coquette** - <http://coquettenola.com/> - good little spot in the Garden District that is run by James Beard Award nominees. Locally sourced ingredients make for excellent southern cuisine. Fantastically spicy Bloody Mary at brunch! No menu Tuesdays are made for the adventurous eaters!

**Mosca's** - <http://moscasrestaurant.com/> - a local legend WAY out on the West Bank. Old school family style Italian food – and so so so good! Things to order: Italian crabmeat salad, meatballs, sausages & peppers, spaghetti bordelaise, shrimp Mosca, oysters Mosca, chicken a la grande. Go with a big group. Cash only.

**Toups'** - <http://www.toupsmeatery.com/> - contemporary Cajun restaurant from the Master Chef himself. Great charcuterie, cheese, cracklins, pork chop, and deviled eggs. Good place to try boudin.

**Paladar 511** - <http://www.paladar511.com/> - really good contemporary Italian spot in a beautifully decorated and comfortable space in the Marigny. The menu changes quite a bit, but I have loved the tuna crudo, little gem lettuces, corn soup, and pappardelle. The pizzas are all good.

**Lola's** - <http://www.lolasneworleans.com/> - awesome Spanish restaurant in Mid-City. They usually do two seatings, so go early or late. The paella is incredibly good. You will never leave this place hungry.

**Irene's** – <http://irenesnola.com/pdf/Main%20Menu.pdf> – For 2 years I thought New Orleans severely lacked good Italian food, but I have been proven wrong. This stuff is incredible Italian/Creole style! There's usually someone playing the piano in the bar, so it's nice to get there early and have a drink. Nice patio out back.

**Luvi** - <https://www.luvirestaurant.com/> - really funky Japanese spot uptown. I dig the vibe.

**Baru and Crudo** - <http://www.barutapas.com/> - Baru is the Latin/Caribbean restaurant downstairs, and Crudo is the bar upstairs. Love this place for their small plates and vibrant setting. I love sitting on the balcony.

**Restaurant Patois** - [www.patoisnola.com/](http://www.patoisnola.com/) - good neighborhood go-to a block or two off Magazine St. and near Audubon Park. Dishes are creative and reliable. The dessert menu is sinful; you'll be amazed how the "Snickers" dish actually tastes just like the candy bar.

**Ye Olde College Inn** – [www.collegeinn1933.com](http://www.collegeinn1933.com) – true locals' farm to table spot next door to Rock 'N Bowl. I have never had a bad meal here, and my favorite dishes are the fresh catch and the chicken with orzo. The crawfish mac 'n cheese is awesome, as are the onion rings.

**Josephine Estelle** - <http://josephineestelle.com/> - if the thought of Memphis/Italian fusion appeals to you, go ahead and try it. The space is beautiful and bustling. The meatballs are the best thing on the menu. It's in the Ace Hotel, so have drinks on the roof, too.

## **FINER DINING:**

**Pelican Club** - <http://www.pelicanclub.com/> - down a little alley called Exchange Place in the French Quarter. Delicious food, service is great, and the space is beautiful. I love the cioppino.

**Mr. B's** - <http://www.mrbsbistro.com/> - very lively restaurant in the French Quarter. Excellent traditional Creole cuisine. I go just for the duck spring rolls.

**Cochon** - [www.cochonrestaurant.com/](http://www.cochonrestaurant.com/) - extremely good Cajun Southern place in the Warehouse District. Usually a heavy meal, so you better go hungry! Very limited outdoor seating. You should definitely try to make a reservation in advance.

**La Petite Grocery** - [www.lapetitegrocery.com/](http://www.lapetitegrocery.com/) - fantastic French restaurant near the intersection of Magazine and Napoleon. Great shrimp & grits, and the blue crab beignets are a MUST. I always order the apple and celeriac salad to start (when it's on the menu). Their specials are usually great – I had a grilled octopus and squid ink spaghetti recently. Very limited outdoor seating.

**Doris Metropolitan** - <http://www.dorismetropolitan.com/> - great Israeli steakhouse just off Jackson Square. The small plates are wonderful and perfect for sharing...I hardly ever need to get a steak. If you're looking for NOLA cuisine, this is not where you want to be. Rather, it's the place for an overall GREAT dining experience.

**Saba** - <https://eatwithsaba.com/> - a super chill, beautiful, great-service Israeli restaurant based on a lot of his family recipes. Be careful not to eat too much pita or you'll spoil the rest of your meal! The hummus is velvety smooth, and I love the chicken entrée with a side of saffron rice. It's best to order lots of plates and share.

**Saffron** - <https://www.saffronnola.com/> - "Restaurant of the Year" for 2017 according to Eater and New Orleans Magazine. Also a James Beard Award nominee. Great Indian food in NOLA (finally!) and you'll notice some southern influences.

**Gautreau's** - [www.gautreausrestaurant.com/](http://www.gautreausrestaurant.com/) - another outstanding white tablecloth (i.e. fine dining) restaurant tucked away in a neighborhood near campus.

**Galatoire's** - [www.galatoires.com](http://www.galatoires.com) – most people discover it on their own, but just in case you haven't...it's the grand dame of New Orleans' traditional restaurants. Men must wear jackets for dinner. For the "real deal" in New Orleans experiences, stand in line early one Friday morning to get your name on the list for Friday lunch, where locals drink all afternoon (usually long enough to just stay for dinner, too) and get rowdy!

**Galatoire's 33** - <http://www.galatoires33barandsteak.com/> - this place gets better every time I go. The bar area is beautiful. The crab cakes are INCREDIBLE, and the lobster thermador is a ridiculously indulgent dish that everyone should try at least once in their life. They are usually willing to let you order some things from Galatoire's next door – in which case you should get the duck crepes!

**Avo** - <http://restaurantavo.com/> - I've never been a fan of Italian restaurants in New Orleans (I go to Italy every year, so I can be a snob about it), but this one Uptown hits the spot.

**Commander's Palace** - <http://www.commanderspalace.com/> - you definitely need reservations for this epitome of classic New Orleans. Fine dining in a beautiful building in the Garden District. This is the happiest place on Earth for Sunday brunch. Weekday lunch features 25-cent martinis! ☺

**Herbsaint** - <http://herbsaint.com/> - French/Italian-inspired, but distinctively Southern food. In the same family of restaurants as Cochon, Pesce, and Butcher. Located on St. Charles Ave. in the Central Business District near Lafayette Square. This is a reliable go-to place for me...one of my favorites – and I have never been disappointed. I am obsessed with the crab gazpacho (when in season) and ceviche. The lasagna is heavy but so good. The house made spaghetti with guanciale and fried-poached farm egg sounds bizarre, but it's awesome.

**Lillette** - [www.lilletterestaurant.com/](http://www.lilletterestaurant.com/) - I take visitors here often. Menu is always changing and always very good. My favorite dishes are the heart of palm salad (one of my top 5 favorite dishes in town) and the steak – the chimichurri sauce (when available) is the best I've ever had. Next door is a great chic bar called Boulogny Tavern.

**Gianna** - <https://giannarestaurant.com/> - excellent contemporary Italian with a little NOLA influence. Veal saltimbocca, chicken, meatballs, provola, and spaghetti bordelaise are my favorite things on the menu.

**Brigtsens** – [www.brigtsens.com](http://www.brigtsens.com) – a long-time locals' classic spot for Creole cuisine. In an old-school house in the Carrollton area. Always busy. Shrimp remoulade is a must-try.

**Brennan's** - <http://www.brennansneworleans.com/> - a beautiful place in the French Quarter. The BBQ lobster is hands down one of my top 5 favorite dishes in New Orleans. I sit in the bar area there for this one dish and champagne and avoid the fuss of being seated at a table in the dining rooms. Good place for large parties – they have rooms upstairs.

**Atchafalaya** - [www.cafeatchafalaya.com/](http://www.cafeatchafalaya.com/) - Great little restaurant with a sometimes small menu, but good food. I have heard great things about their brunch – especially the make your own Bloody Mary.

**Clancy's** - <http://www.clancysneworleans.com/> - THE classic go-to place for Uptowners. Great food, great service. Oysters & brie appetizer is a must, and I always order the Veal Annunciation.

**R'evolution** - <http://revolutionnola.com/> - pricey, and FANTASTIC. You will never leave here hungry. Fair warning - the menu has way too many things to choose from.

**La Boca** - <http://www.labocasteaks.com/> - excellent Argentinian steakhouse in the Warehouse District. The provoleta, heart of palm salad, and Brussels sprouts are all very good.

**GW Fins** – <http://gwfins.com/> - very good seafood selection and preparation. I think it gets a little touristy, but locals DO like it!

**Antoine's** - <http://www.antoines.com/> - the oldest restaurant in the city, and it's not slowing down. Each dining room is unique, and the food is classic New Orleans.

**Bayona** - <http://www.bayona.com/> - one of Susan Spicer's most popular restaurants in the city. Lots of Mediterranean influence in the menu. The dishes are very generous in size. The courtyard is wonderful for outdoor dining.

**Jack Rose** – [www.jackroserestaurant.com](http://www.jackroserestaurant.com) – at the Pontchartrain Hotel. One of the best interiors I've seen, and the food is good too! I like the calamari, kale Caesar (lots of garlic), and fried chicken parmesan

## **BREAKFAST/BRUNCH:**

**Birdie's Behind the Bower** - <https://birdysnola.com/> - Great laid-back place with a TON of outdoor seating and options (including vegetarian, healthy, smoothies – but also pastries, fried chicken biscuits, etc.) – AND bottomless mimosas.

**Surrey's** - <http://www.surreyscafeandjuicebar.com/> - two locations both on Magazine. Great greasy spoon that is very popular. You might have to wait a little while, but there is a bar next door to the Uptown location that serves as a great waiting area (the hostess will find you).

**Camellia Grill** – another great greasy spoon that can have a wait depending on what time you go. Great for late night, too.

**Ruby Slipper** - <http://www.therubyslippercafe.net/> - several locations. Very popular, so be prepared to wait. Great Bloody Mary. Big fan of the Chicken St. Charles and Croque Madame.

**Stanley** - <http://stanleyrestaurant.com/> - at Jackson Square. There is usually a crowd on weekends especially, so go next door for a drink while you wait. If you're in the mood for something other than breakfast food, the Thanksgiving turkey croissant is my favorite.

**Biscuits & Buns on Banks** - <http://www.biscuitsandbunsonbanks.com/> - I love the chicken tender on the house biscuit (topped with andouille and chorizo gravy). Just go. They also have a ton of fresh squeezed juices.

**Satsuma** - <http://satsumacafe.com/> - several locations. Farm-to-table place that is very popular among locals – also good for lunch.

**Chais Delachaise** - <http://www.chaisdelachaise.com/> - the sister to Delachaise – uptown and close to campus.

**Willa Jean, Café du Monde, La Petite Grocery, Commander's Palace, Tujague's, Atchafalaya, Coquette, Brennan's, Country Club** – see above.

## **GREAT BARS:**

**Carousel Bar at Hotel Monteleone** – <http://hotelmonteleone.com/dining-entertainment/carouselbar/> - one of my favorite places to just hang out. There is an actual carousel that slowly circles the main bar, but the rest of the space is newly renovated and beautifully decorated. You will see anyone and everyone hanging out here and enjoying jazz in the evenings.

**Bar Marilou** - <https://www.barmarilou.com/> - next door to the Maison de la Luz – stunningly beautiful space for craft cocktails and small plates. It is always buzzing!

**Boulogny Tavern** – [www.boulognytavern.com/](http://www.boulognytavern.com/) - probably my favorite bar, right next door to Lilette. Great small plates if you want a lighter meal. Beautifully decorated, high end, great wine list, and they



play music from an old record player. Probably not a place you would take a college student, but definitely a place to enjoy on your own. I like sitting outside when the weather is nice.

**Hot Tin** - <http://hottinbar.com/> - rooftop bar at the Pontchartrain Hotel with an absolutely stunning view of the city.

**Cure** - <http://curenola.com/> - not far from campus. Has a growing national reputation after being featured in some big magazines. Lots of creative drinks from master bartenders.

**Oak** – [www.oaknola.com/](http://www.oaknola.com/) - my other favorite bar – on Oak Street. *Excellent* wine list and the food is just as good. Has some great specials during the week and almost always has some live music later in the evenings. Can't say enough good things about it.

**Delachaise** - <http://www.thedelachaise.com/> - fantastic wine list, great vibe. And they do have an awesome menu (the Cuban twice-cooked pork and duck fat fries are my favorites)!

**Barrel Proof** – <http://www.barrelproofnola.com/> - Whiskey, whiskey, and more whiskey. And some beer and other liquor. But lots of whiskey!

## **GREAT MUSIC VENUES:**

**dba** - <http://www.dbaneworleans.com/> - probably my favorite “traditional” music venue in New Orleans...catch a John Boutte show there if you can...he never disappoints!

**Tipitina's** - <http://www.tipitinas.com/> - legendary.

**Bacchanal** – <http://www.bacchanalwine.com/> - probably unlike anything you've ever seen before. You walk into a wine/beer shop and out the back door is a huge yard with a mismatched collection of outdoor furniture where you can have a seat and listen to whatever band is playing. Great food, too! The perfect time to go is during lunch. Hands down one of my favorite places in the city – especially great for day drinking!

## **HOTELS:**

*Rather than booking it online, I suggest calling the hotel directly to make your reservation. Many of them offer a discounted Tulane rate.*

**Maison de la Luz** - <https://maisondelaluz.com/> - when you walk in, you feel instantly transported to Europe. It is FABULOUS.

**Windsor Court** – <http://www.windsorcourthotel.com/> - beautiful and popular hotel between the Warehouse District and French Quarter. Their gorgeous spa was recently renovated and includes a nice pool.

**Westin** - <http://www.westinneworleanscanalplace.com/> - excellent and reliable hotel on the Mississippi (expansive views of the river or city, depending on what side your room is on). In the French Quarter connected to the Shops @ Canal Place, but not in the middle of the madness.

**Loews** – <http://www.loewshotels.com/New-Orleans-Hotel> - between the Warehouse District and French Quarter, across the street from Harrah's. Excellent rooms at usually excellent rates. The spa is small, but decent. The bar is fun.

**The Roosevelt** – <http://therooseveltneworleans.com/> - a gorgeous Waldorf Astoria hotel on Canal Street near the French Quarter. (If you're in town around Christmas time, swing through to enjoy the spectacular decorations.)

**The Ritz Carlton** – <http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/NewOrleans/Default.htm> - on Canal Street and within walking distance to the heart of the French Quarter. Great jazz lounge/bar in the lobby level, and their spa is one of the best in town!

**Pontchartrain Hotel** - <http://thepontchartrainhotel.com/> - If you don't want to stay in the French Quarter, this is a good option in the Garden District right on St. Charles Ave. It has an outstanding rooftop bar and unique view of the city.

**Virgin Hotel** - <https://virginhotels.com/new-orleans/> - I have already done two staycations at the Virgin and I love it. Good location in the CBD if you want to avoid the French Quarter, but close enough to walk there or anywhere in the Warehouse District. Rooftop (with a small pool) is great for drinks and the restaurant is popular.