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Getaway to Claremont Restaurant Week July 10-19

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They say "A change is as good as a rest" and if you 're seeking a quick getaway filled with wonderful dining choices, relaxing strolls down tree-lined streets and warm hospitality, you need look no further than **Claremont, CA**.

Snuggled up against the San Gabriel Mountain foothills, this oasis of calm and charm is an easy one to two hour drive from most SoCal locations, yet is a world away from your everyday life.

And to make things even more enticing, many of the towns sixty (yes, sixty) locally owned and operated restaurants are participating in **Claremont Restaurant Week** July 10 - 19. This nine day celebration of cuisine offers a host of special menus, designed to showcase each establishments unique specialties: from simple salads, heavenly deserts and coffees to French, Italian, down-home American and even Korean/Mexican fusion! With twenty-one participating venues, you're may have to stay overnight – or longer.

Discover Claremont and some of the local hotels have a special '**Dine and Stay**' offer that includes a \$50



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Discover Claremont gift card. What a great deal – that's almost the price of dinner for two during Restaurant Week!

The Claremont Chamber of Commerce and Discover Claremont, kindly invited a small group from the **International Food Wine and Travel Writers Association** to sample a sneak peak of

what will be on offer during this gastronomic festival. The majority of these restaurants are located within the 'Village' a 12 square block, easy to navigate area, complete with complimentary parking. The shady streets, lined with antique shops, boutiques and many one of a kind temptations are perfect for ambling – perhaps from cocktails to main course to dessert!

Here's a quick rundown of some of the diverse and creative choices. Take a look at the photo gallery for more:

European Flair – Try Bardot (wonderful patio & French inspired cuisine), The Eurocafe (Portugese influence), Nuno's Bistro (loved their seafood stuffed mushrooms), Saca's Mediterranean Grill (Kalamata Hummus is divine), Tutti Mangia Italian Grill (Short ribs with creamy polenta is a savory standout), Pie Street Pizza (superb sauce on these choose your own topping pies) and Pappas Artisanal in nearby La Verne.

Spicy Specials – Tikka Wraps & Curry Bowls (the aromas of the their savory creations are fabulous with many vegetarian offerings, too), The Junction merges Korean BBQ with Mexican cuisine, all served up Spanish Tapas style – and it works! Think Bibimbap Burrito) and classic home style Mexican fare at Casa Moreno Mexican Grill.

Tasty Temptations – Packing House Wines (Pix Fixe Dinner 3 courses for \$30 but go for the wine pairing, too (\$40) from their large, personal selections), Pine Have Café will wow you with their downhome menu and rocking deserts, and Salad Farm will supply your veggie fix with the utmost flair!

Stay Awhile – Two of Claremont's choice accommodations are also home to great food!
Lounge 425 at Hotel Casa 425 is 'the' place to hang out. Enjoy a creative two course dinner for \$20 or splurge an extra \$5 for dessert. You know you want to!
The Orchard is located at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel. Three courses for \$30 – try the Ahi Tuna Poke, Scallops Rockefeller to start! Enjoy a relaxing meander through their tropical gardens while you're there.

If you'd like to know more about this terrific 'mini-vacation' destination, watch for an upcoming article with details on other highlights of the area, including the **Santa Ana Botanical Gardens**.

For a complete list of participating restaurant visit www.ClaremontRestaurantWeek.com

Accommodations and arrangements were provided by Discover Claremont, the Claremont Chamber of Commerce and the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Claremont, however all opinions and experiences are those of the author.



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