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Mother's Day Brunch Bonanza!

Your mom would never forget your birthday so don't you forget the day that celebrates her unique identity as "mother." Flowers, candy, wine or champagne and a trip to the spa are all good ways to make her feel special. But before any of that why not take her to a nice restaurant for a leisurely brunch? Dining establishments throughout the city have been feverishly crafting mom-friendly menus. So what are you waiting for? Start planning!

1. Jar West Hollywood



Thanks to the rich offerings at this acclaimed steakhouse mom won't leave hungry. Chef Suzanne Tracht has put together a menu of her personal favorites that closely mirrors the regular (much loved) Sunday brunch menu. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a la carte prices \$11-\$21.

2. Fogo De Chão Beverly Hills



Nothing says "I love you, mom," like 15 cuts of meat carved tableside. This exotic restaurant specializes in Brazilian-style barbecue and its skilled gaucho chefs are ace when it comes to flashy presentation. 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., \$42.50.

3. Dakota Hollywood



Last year this Hollywood chophouse in the classic Roosevelt hotel unveiled a secluded little outdoor dining area called "the Bridge," which overlooks the sexy Tropicana bar (and allows guests entrance to the often hard-to-get-into space after their meal). Specialty cocktails abound for the mom who likes to unwind as much as you do.

4. The Dining Room at The Langham, Huntington Hotel & Spa Pasadena



It's a two-fer at this classic 1907 Pasadena landmark: you can treat mom to brunch and a spa treatment. The Terrace is offering a high-end brunch of exquisitely complicated egg dishes, tender meats and divine desserts. 10:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., \$95 per adult, \$35 per child. Also available: "Passionately

Pink" chocolate afternoon tea in the lobby lounge from noon to 4 p.m. for \$59 per person, with proceeds benefiting breast cancer research.

5. Cezanne Santa Monica



Santa Monica's luxurious Le Merigot Hotel offers elegant indoor dining as well as alfresco dining on a shady terrace overlooking the pool. A family friendly brunch is the order of the day on Sunday. Offerings include assorted dim sum, house-smoked salmon, organic roasted chicken, skewered garlic shrimp and a fantastic selection baked goods. 11:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., \$38 person.

6. Walt Disney Concert Hall Downtown L.A.



Patina catering is offering an exclusive brunch in the lovely, exotic Blue Ribbon garden behind this stunning Frank Gehry-designed landmark. Moms receive a complimentary glass of pink champagne and choose from a variety of breakfast favorites such as griddled French toast, carved applewood-smoked ham and savory crepes. One seating at noon. \$58 per adult, \$18 per child 10 and under; for reservations call (213) 972-7565.

7. Gonpachi Beverly Hills



This gorgeous Japanese oasis with a lush outdoor garden and an Asian-village-themed dining room is offering a mid-afternoon four-course, prix-fixe meal. Try mentaiko Caesar salad, maguro steak and pumpkin zensai for dessert. 4 p.m., \$48 per person.

8. Mediterraneo Westlake Village



Enjoy a fresh, seasonal brunch at this Westlake Village favorite. The bread and waffle station will offer traditional rustic breads, scones, bagels and hot waffles with fresh whipped cream. There will also be salad, seafood, carving and omelet stations. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$42.96 per adult, \$19.95 per child.

9. Cafe La Boheme West Hollywood



La Bohème serves California French cuisine in a setting reminiscent of a lush post-modernist opera house. Opt for dinner or brunch in the glittering outdoor garden. A complimentary glass of champagne with a buffet brunch will surely satisfy mom's cravings. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$36 for adults. Regular dinner service resumes from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

10. Campanile Fairfax District



This classy, classic favorite is offering a fresh, straightforward approach to brunch with sourdough pancakes, scrambled eggs with creamed spinach and roast beef salad with arugula. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A delicious Mother's

Day dinner is also available.

11. Saddle Peak Lodge Calabasas



Have brunch in a rustic century-old lodge or on an outdoor patio with lush foliage beside a cascading waterfall. The three-course menu includes house-cured salmon with bagel chips, Brioche French toast with bananas and seared ahi tuna salad. 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., \$50 per adult, \$25 per child.

12. Royal/T Culver City



This conceptual cafe/shop/art space is a Japanese maid cafe, which means your waitress will be dressed in a frilly brown-and-white Akihabara maid's uniform with white knee socks and a matching apron. On Mother's Day you can choose two celebratory options: a four-course "Royal Mom" brunch for \$22, or a decadent "High Tea," for \$25 per person. All moms will receive a complimentary mimosa at the start of their meal.

13. Taste Pacific Palisades



(Formerly Il Carpaccio.) The second outpost of Taste features the same concept as its Melrose counterpart: an eclectic menu of American comfort classics with a global twist. If your mom likes to let loose, this is the perfect place to take her. The restaurant is offering free-flowing "Mimosas" for all moms, all day. The brunch menu includes tasty options such as watermelon salad, crab cake Benedict and blackened salmon salad. The cost of a three-course prix-fixe meal (with the aforementioned "Mimosas," is \$34. Don't forget to follow up your meal with a walk on the beach.

14. Katsuya Hollywood



Katsuya specializes in raw fish and raw style, attracting the young and hip to a restaurant that is as much a see-and-be-seen destination as it is a place to fill your stomach. On Mother's Day all three locations (Brentwood, Glendale and Hollywood) are offering family-style prix-fixe menus for \$55 per person, including bottomless mimosas. Menu items include crispy rice with spicy tuna, tuna crab cones, miso cod lettuce wraps and assorted Nigiri sushi.

15. RH at Andaz West Hollywood West Hollywood



In what used to be WeHo's famous Riot Hyatt, an Andaz hotel has taken root. Its restaurant, a fun, slick number with a Michelin star chef is offering moms a chance to step into its kitchen on Mother's Day. Mom and the rest of the family can watch chef Sebastien Archambault and his kitchen team get crafty, before selecting some of their brunch choices directly from the kitchen counters. Back at the table, main courses will be served family style. Mother's Day specials, including seasonal berry Bellinis, braised lamb, and hazelnut waffles will be served from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and cost \$48 for adults and \$20 for children.

16. Descanso Gardens La Canada-Flintridge



Visitors can stroll or hike through 160 acres that include forests of oak trees and camellias; a native California plant section; an International Rosarium; a lilac grove; a Japanese garden and a teahouse; a bird sanctuary; and an art gallery inside the historic Boddy House mansion. On Mother's Day, treat mom to a relaxing brunch created by Patina chefs and served in the idyllic environs of Descanso Gardens' Rose Pavilion. Menu items include French toast, Tuscan chicken salad and chocolate bread pudding, and a musical performance is available at 1 p.m. with the purchase of brunch. Seatings are at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. \$45 for adults, \$20 for children.

17. Ivan Kane's Cafe Was Hollywood



At Ivan Kane's bohemian-chic Cafe Was, you'll find two different tasting menus, one for your mom (\$39), and one for your mother-in-law (\$24). The four-course "Mother" menu includes Maine lobster thermidor and wild mushroom ravioli, while the mother-in-law menu consists of crab eggs Benedict and New York strip steak and eggs, with French beignets and truffle ice cream for dessert. Bottomless screwdrivers, Bloody Marys or mimosas can be added to either option for \$15 per person.

18. Rush Street Culver City



Rush Street is named after a mile-long stretch of road in Chicago that bustles with crowds in search of food, booze and entertainment at all hours of the afternoon and evening. On Mother's Day the restaurant will be serving its usual Red Eye brunch with the addition of a complimentary mimosa for mom. 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

19. Beacon an Asian Cafe Culver City



Quirky Asian-esque fare served mostly small-plate style in the old Helms Bakery. On Mother's Day you'll find a specially prepared three-course prix-fixe menu featuring seasonal fare and a complimentary glass of Cava for mom, priced at \$28 per person.

20. The Foundry on Melrose Melrose



Chef Eric Greenspan's polished California fare is on display at this modern bistro and from the looks of the people flocking to it, it's hitting all the right notes. The restaurant has just unveiled a beautiful outdoor patio for summer (with olive trees, twinkling lights and a fire place), so dine al fresco with mom. Enjoy a three-course, prix-fixe menu including chicken confit with potato hash, buttermilk and ricotta crepes and Brioche French toast with crispy pork belly. The menu goes for \$39 per person.

21. Giggle 'N' Hugs Sawtelle



A truly family friendly restaurant, Giggles 'n' Hugs offers a full menu of healthy foods that also taste great. On Mother's Day at 10 a.m. the restaurant is offering a show featuring performers such as "Twinkle Time" and characters like Elmo. There will also be kid karaoke.

22. Lucca Cafe & Market Irvine

Enjoy a lavish Mother's Day brunch buffet from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Mother's Day. Items include breakfast pastries, an omelet station, a carving station and a salad bar. The price is \$29.95 with champagne, and \$24.95 without.

23. La Cachette Beverly Hills



Nearly 12 years ago, after spending almost a decade behind the stove at L'Orangerie, Jean Francois Meteigner opened his pretty but unpretentious restaurant in a former residence. It's a lovely spot for an adult evening, where, amen, you can hear yourself talk. On Mother's Day you'll find a decadent three-course brunch for \$65 per person. Choices include cold jumbo prawns with orange, lime and fresh horseradish cocktail sauce, organic eggs Benedict with Black Forest ham and grilled flat iron steak with tapenade. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

24. Locanda del Lago Santa Monica



House specialties revolve around Lake Como, the big blue body of water near Italy's northern border with Switzerland. Locanda's Mother's Day feast is called "Festa Della Mamma," and comes in three (\$39) or four courses (\$54). Menu items include giant calamari stuffed with market bell pepper risotto and lemon-thyme foam, housemade chicken lasagna layered with potato confit and roasted lamb top sirloin wrapped in pancetta.

25. Sapphire Laguna Laguna Beach

Bits and pieces of every continent land on Azmin Ghahreman's international menu. On Sunday you'll find a "Mother's and Others" three-course prix-fixe brunch menu, which includes dishes such as PB&J pancakes, eggs Benedict with salmon nicoise hash and basil hollandaise sauce and heirloom tomatoes and Manchego salad. \$55 for adults, \$25 for children.