Graduation Eats

Ellie Potter
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Story by Ellie Potter
Photography by Kelly BonaVentura
As graduation approaches, family and friends will start heading to Richmond to celebrate the accomplishments of the senior class. If you are looking for a tasty place to take, or rather, be treated to by your loved ones, look no further than our dinner listings with different categories depending on the atmosphere and price range of your choosing.

A University of Richmond staple, you must go here at least once in your four years. With an eclectic, hipster-diner feel, Galaxy sports all kinds of space-themed dishes including a Nuclear Waste Burger (Galaxy original with cheese, bacon, chili, pineapple, and LTMO). Great for a casual or late-night meal. Dishes under $13.

Explore Richmond’s historical Shockoe Bottom at Bottom’s Up Pizza. With enormous slices of thick-crust pizza at around $8, you definitely will not need more than one. They even offer gluten-free crusts and vegan cheese!

On the Rox has delicious buffalo oysters. Open Tuesday-Sunday. They also have a substantial brunch menu great for post graduation celebrations. Moderately priced with entrees ranging from $8-$15. Delicious sandwiches and fries cooked in duck fat and truffle oil. Entrees range from $10 to $25.

Mosaic is known for their delicious brunch, but if you didn’t already know that, do you really go to Richmond? Just a minute off campus, Mosaic offers a comfortable outdoor patio with a colorful, artistic interior. Brunch entrees, including a fried green tomato BLT and an egg frittata of fried oysters, run around $11 with $6 mimosas.

Just a one-minute drive from campus, Toast is located in the Village Shopping Center just off Three Chopt. With a variety of American-style entrees ranging from $9 to $21, Toast is convenient, reasonably priced and delicious. Be sure to start your evening with their parmesan truffle fries—you will not regret it.

In 2012 Chef Mike Isabella was named FOOD & WINE magazine’s The People’s Best New Chef Mid-Atlantic. He also was on the sixth season of Top Chef. He opened Graffiato in Washington D.C. and Richmond. Dinner entrees range from about $9-$15. The Chef’s Favorites include amish chicken thigh and charred octopus.

Check out The Daily whether it be for their $9 cold-pressed organic juices, sandwiches, seafood or meat entrees. According to The Daily website, they “strive to serve foods that are not only delicious but also health conscious, environmentally friendly and socially responsible.” A wide variety of vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and paleo options. Entrees range from $10 to $25.
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FINE DINING

MEZZANINE
3433 West Cary Street

If you are looking for fine dining without driving downtown, check out Mezzanine which is located at 3433 W. Cary St. in Carytown. The menu changes daily, but typically ranges from about $18-$25 for an entrée. With a variety of items from a raw kale salad to Carolina shrimp and grits to spicy Thai green curry, there is something for everyone to love.

RAPPAHANNOCK
320 Grace Street

Trying to get a feel for Richmond’s seafood? Check out Rappahannock Oysters Company located at 320 Grace St. Known for its large oyster bar, dinner entrees range from $18-$34. Happy hour is Sunday through Thursday 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. featuring $1 oysters, $5 draft Prosecco, $5 house punch, and $3 craft can beers. Entrees range from $21 to $35.

CAN CAN BRASSERIE
3120 W. Cary Street

Can Can offers a rich French atmosphere to compliment the delicious French cuisine. Start the night out with a variety of cheeses, and meat and a glass of French wine. Dinner entrees range from $19 to $25 and include a braised veal blanquette and pan seared rockfish.

TOBACCO COMPANY
1201 Cary Street

Treat yourself to the beautiful Tobacco Company at least once before leaving the Richmond area. This multi-level restaurant has a fun yet darkly-romantic atmosphere complete with an antique elevator. Lavish your taste buds in pasta, seafood, chicken, pork or steak—they do it all well. Entrees range from $21 to $35.
Be sure to sit out on the deck along gorgeous Cary Street. Check out the assortment of seafood at the raw bar and follow it up with pan fried Carolina trout or seared shrimp and scallops. There are also meat and vegetarian options available. Dinner entrees range from $12-$30.