

RESTAURANTS IN THE CERN AREA

“Eating is a serious business in this part of the world.”
(M. Porrati, private communication, 1993)

This is a list of restaurants and associated comments. It is based on a list compiled during the 95-96 academic year by Penny Halpern. I have included also some extra selections and my own comments (in italics) where appropriate. I also comment on wine lists. The regular comments are due to Marty and Penny Halpern. If you have comments on the list, please e-mail me.

- Auberge de Combette (Vesancy) 04(50)41 64 17
An excellent restaurant in a farmhouse in the village of Vesancy with a variety of menus ranging from FF 150-350. Our group reported that the quality of the dishes was uniformly high.
- Auberge Crêt de la Neige (Sergy) 04(50)42 01 55
North of Saint-Genis. One of the best less-expensive restaurants in this area of France. Specialities: fondue and raclette salade de fois de volaille aux amandes, fondue du fromage, fondue bourguignonne - meat sometimes a bit tough.
- Au Pied du Cochon (Place du Bourg du Four, Geneva).
This is a pleasant restaurant, open also on Sunday evenings, with a wide menu including some Lyonnais specialties.
- L'Os a Moelle (Saint-Genis) 04(50)42 02 83
6 rue Gex
Good down to earth food here. Another in the best less-expensive category. A meat restaurant with sauces, including marrow bone - the house specialty - great. Try the t-bone - the best cut. Friendly service. *My comments are slightly less enthusiastic, but it still is a solid meat place.*
- Bel Horizon (Meyrin) (022) 782 1206
375 Route de Meyrin
Convenient - right next to CERN. Moderate for Switzerland. Fondue! Game dishes in season.
- Auberge de Dardagny (Dardagny) (022) 754 1472
504 route Mandement, 1282 Dardagny

Charming country inn between Satigny and Challex. One of the best in the area. Salade de fois de volaille is good! Seconds on gigot and jambon. Terrasse in the summer.

- **Cafe Douane (Chez babette)** (Meyrin) (022) 782 1398

Across from CERN. Fondue and tea is not bad!

- **Buffet de la Gare** (Celigny) (022) 776 2770

Excellent one star level restaurant in the village of Celigny. Expensive (you are in Switzerland) but very good dishes mostly traditional rather than innovative. Excellent wine list and desserts.

- **La Colombière** (Lully) (022) 757 1027

I have been there recently and I think it certainly deserves his 16/20 in Gault et Millaut. Their regular menu sells for 80 SFr and comprises 2 first courses (Ravioli aux poireaux et truffe, superb, and St Jacques au Jurancon et gingebre, equally superb) main course (veau a la crepinette d'épinards, the best veal I ever had) cheese and dessert. They have a very good selection of wines by the glass, a superb wine list, and a very competent sommelier. Ask the sommelier to suggest some of the local Lully whites, they will surprise you! A must if you like good food.

- **Le Domino** (Geneva) (022) 733 0198.

A small unpretentious and moderately prices restaurant in rue de Vidolet. Specialising in fresh water fish. The omble chevalier with leeks is a must for any standards.

- **Du Saleve - Carouge** (Carouge) (022) 342 2731

Place Rondeau 9 - 1, route de Drize

Excellent beef in the fondue bourguignonne, but expensive (35 CHF). Terrasse in good weather. Take a drive in Pinchot or Carouge before or after dinner.

- **Relais de Chambesey** (Chambesey) (022) 758 1105

8 Place de Chambesey

Chasse menu excellent, pleasant decor and atmosphere, careful service. Ask for the cigar box after dinner.

- **Cave Valaisanne** (Geneva) (022) 328 1236

bd Georges Favon 23

Near the Plainpalais. Good fondue, broad and good menu. Many interesting local and expatriate characters.

- **Cremerie-Brasserie** (Saint-Genis) 04(50)42 19 29

(Les Hautains Commercial area)

Will often serve at later hours.

- Auberge Charaux (Thoiry) 04(50)42 29 38
Avenue du Mont-Blanc D. 984 - 01710 Thoiry

Just outside of Saint-Genis in Thoiry. An old favorite, classic French dishes, broad range of menu prices. Friendly. A great view from the terrasse in good weather. Good! *I am less impressed, some of the dishes do not reflect their prices. Not very good but expensive wine list.*
- Chinois-Shanghai (Saint-Genis) 04(50)42 23 66

Next to Chene Club. Reasonable Chinese food, late night snacks. *I think it is one of the best chinese restaurants in the French side.*
- Hotel Sofia (Saint-Genis) 04(50)42 19 86

Another old favorite. One of the best medium-priced restaurants in the area. Try the fois gras, boeuf aux morilles, frogs legs, duck. The chef's wife Sofia is a local character who chats and takes an interest in seeing that you are well fed. She has provided special group dinners if ordered in advance. A must to try!
- Restaurant de l'Hotel de Ville (Geneva) (022) 311 7030.

in the heart of the old town, a solid cuisine, with few spotty dishes, good (but expensive) wine list and very nice atmosphere. In the summer you can dine out in the terrace.
- Ban-Thai (Geneva, Paquis) (022) 738 2726.

Good Thai restaurant in the "hot" neighborhood of Paquis. Nice decor. A bit on the expensive side.
- Thai-Bankong (Divonne) 04(50)20 15 57

Good Thai restaurant featuring also some Chinese and Vietnamese specialties. Located at the center of Divonne.
- Restaurant La Boucherie (Annemasse) 04(50)38 90 88
34, rue du Parc

Excellent meat restaurant, os a moelle, fried pig feet etc. Any piece of Beef can be found here. Reasonable prices.
- Auberge des Chasseurs (Echenevex, Gex) 04(50)41 54 07

Perennial favorite. One of the very best moderate-priced restaurants in the area. Good ambience overlooking a field. Chasse a specialty in the fall. *I find it a bit spotty, the quality goes up and down. The wine list is average but expensive.*
- Rajpoute (Ornex) 04(50)40 82 90
321, Route de Bretigny, between Ferney and Gex

Best Indian and Pakistani food we found in the area. Tandoori style.

- **L'Arlequin** (Gex) 04(50)41 61 69
As you enter Gex: Charming, romantic, small and inexpensive restaurant. Try the fois gras salade and fondues.
- **Auberge Gessienne** (Chevry) 04(50)41 01 67
Toward Gex. A perennial favorite. One of the best moderate-priced restaurants in the area. French country style, with the emphasis on robust tastes.
- **Le Romantic** (Thoiry) 04(50)42 02 72
Restaurant Hotel International, avenue du Mont Blanc
Inexpensive, pleasant summer dinner outside at the Hotel International, a good apartment-hotel in the near French countryside.
- **Auberge Chalaisienne** (Challex) 04(50)56 35 71
rue de la Treille
The Challaisienne changed ownership in 1995, but maintains its charming and refined setting, terrasse and view of the Rhone. The food is excellent and, when measured against the modest prices, is one of the best dinners in the area. Try the menu at 95FF!
- **Amphitryon** (Saint-Genis) 04(50)20 64 64
Zone Animation Saint-Genis-Pouilly
Expensive classic French cuisine, elegant service; prices to match. *I find this restaurant not very good although expensive. More on the pompous side than good.*
- **La Voute** (Saint-Genis) 04(50)42 12 68
Pizzeria Bar de la Voute, 8 rue de Geneve
Bar, pizzeria, grill. Open fairly late, pizzas, salads, broad menu, moderate prices, Friendly. *I find it expensive for what it offers. The only dish standing out is pizza with goat cheese.*
- **Les Antiquaires** (Geneva) (022) 311 2416
Grand Rue 35
Excellent restaurant in the old town of Geneva, attractive to the young crowd. A classic fondue place, moderate prices for Switzerland.
- **La Mainaz** (Col de la Faucille, Mijoux) 04(50)41 31 10
Romantic restaurant with excellent food and an impressive view on the Geneva area. The restaurant is on the Jura mountains. The chef personally greeted the customers. Meat was excellent. To continue the romantic interlude, reserve a room at the hotel. *Very good cuisine and wine list. Superbe view of Lac Lemman and the whole of Geneva area*

- **Le Chanteclair** (Ferney-Voltaire) 04(50)40 79 55
13, rue de Versoix

An excellent restaurant where the chef has a real flair for creating new and unusual dishes. Deserves the red hat it receives in Gault Millau. The menu changes often. The prices are reasonable for a gourmet restaurant. Counting distance, price and quality, this is the one not to miss. *The wine list has improved, and with some knowledge and/or experience you can pick some nice bottles.*
- **Auberge de Cessy** (Cessy) 04(50)41 79 22

At the center of the village.

An excellent restaurant. The decor is simple and the cooking very good. The cuisine is more traditional than inovative. The prices are excellent. The wine list is very good and put together with care.
- **Les Armures** (Geneva) (022) 310-9172

In the old town next to the cannons. There is a wonderful outside terrasse, a broad menu and excellent fondue.
- **Les Cepages** (Thoiry) 04(50)20 83 85

This is a very good restaurant with one star in the Michelin guide. The tastes are somewhat on the mild side. There is a beautiful terrasse, with a good view, for summer enjoyment. *Excellent wine list with some hard to find bottles like the single vineyard Côte Roties of Guigal. The food I think does not deserve the prices asked.*
- **Le Pirate** (Ferney-Voltaire) 04(50)40 63 52

Avenue de Geneve

In the first traffic circle (near the Douane) as you enter Ferney-Voltaire, *this restaurant was recently demoted from one to zero stars in the Michelin guide.* Many people report that this is one of their favorite fish and sea food restaurants. In our estimate, however, the quality did not live up to the price.
- **Chateau de Farges** (Farges) 04(50)56 71 30
(In Farges direction Bellegarde)

Charming hotel and restaurant gastronomique with a very pleasant dining room. Try the menu gastronomique. Friendly - A short and fun drive from CERN. *Short wine list with bad selections.*
- **Tex-Mex Station** (Saint-Genis) 04(50)42 18 41
where?

A fun new restaurant that just opened at the end of 1995. Our favorite inexpensive restaurant in the area. Great BBQ ribs, fajitas - Hamburgers are not bad. The restaurant also has take-out. American and Mexican dishes prepared with a French flair.

- **Restaurant La Terrasse** (Divonne les Bains) 04(50)40 35 39
Behind the Casino
Fancy, expensive! Fun if you feel like spending yourself into a gambling mood. Food is very good but our group felt it was not good enough for the price.
- **La Marmite Gourmande** (Thoiry) 04(50)41 25 30
Centre Ville in Thoiry
Pleasant, inexpensive French food. On the Y bus line. Also open for lunch.
- **Le Curry Pot** (Geneva) (022) 7329951
24 Rue du Mont Blanc
Near the Gare, one floor up, standard curries - open late.
- **Midi-Pyrenees** (Saint-Genis) 04(50)42 12 73
A fun, inexpensive restaurant - a variety of meats - not always the very best quality, salad bar, couscous. Portions are large. The pierrade is fun. The owners are friendly, even offering "un sac pour le chien" if you did not finish your meat. They also will offer seconds. There is live music and a dance floor. Popular with the locals.
- **Hotel de France** (Ferney-Voltaire) 04(50)40 63 87
1 Rue de Geneve
Pleasant, good in the old town of Ferney-Voltaire The beef was so-so. The duck dish was excellent. The service was uneven. However, others have reported more favorably.
- **La Ciboulette** (Annecy) 04(50)45 76 75
10, rue Vaugelas - Cour du Pre Carre - 74000 Annecy
Pleasant restaurant on a side street in the old town of Annecy. Charming and friendly ambience. This is a one red hat restaurant in Gault Millau. The frogs legs were superb as was the dessert cart, and the souffle was superb. Worth the hat!
- **Bistrot de Boucher** (Geneva) (022) 736 5636
Avenue Pictet-de-Rochement 15
Epitome of an excellent meat restaurant, with a plaster cow out front and cow pictures on the walls. Filets, steak tartare etc. You can feel the "meat energy" of the crowd here.
- **Resto Pamukkale** (Saint-Genis)
Inexpensive Turkish restaurant. Good donner kebab and appetizers. Take out. The service is slow. It can stay open rather late.
- **Le Chêne Vert** (Saint-Genis) 04(50)42 05 54
Restaurant New Chene Club, rue Crozet

Next to the Chene Club. If you are hungry after a workout at the gym. The restaurant recently expanded to include a late night pizzeria and bar.

- **Le Perron** (Geneva)
Rue Purgatorie
On the edge of the old town, near Grand Passage. Good fondue.
- **Bistrot de Dumas** (Geneva) (022) 347 7422
7 Ave Dumas - 1206 Geneve - Fermé le dimanche
A high energy and high noise restaurant in a pleasant residential area of Geneva. Lyonnaise specialties. L'os a moelle is in the salty style. The quality of the meat is below filet.
- **Cafe Universal** (Geneva) (022) 781 1881
26 bd du Pont d'Arve off Rue de Carouge, near Theatre Pitoeff
Dinner until 11:15. Try after theatre. High Energy, high noise center for young people and the young at heart. Good food, moderate prices. Os a moelle, salade de homard, assiette de champignons, bavette à l'echallote, salade de crevettes (Tiger prawns), Poulet Columbo.
- **Le Clos des Sens** (Annecy le Vieux) 04(50)23 07 90
13 Rue Jean Mirmoz, 74940 Annecy le Vieux
One red hat in Gault Millau and deserves it! Wonderful ambience near the Mairie of Annecy le Vieux. "L'equipe" was very nice and helpful. The special spring menu at 198 francs was excellent: a delicious marbre fois gras avec pois, carre d'agneau incredibly tender and well seasoned. Great beef dish: charolais aux champignons. Legumes very tasty and creative. The cheese course was really fun with a wide variety of local cheeses and beyond. The waiter took great pride explaining the differences in the cheeses. For quality and price, this may be the best we found in the area.
- **Pizza Trucks** (Saint-Genis)
Pizza 4 Seasons - usually near the traffic circle on Rue de Geneve and les Hautains. The crust is really thin and the toppings are delicious. We liked this best.
Pizza Maité - in the parking lot of the Champion supermarket on Rue de Geneve. The pizzas here are made with a thick crust. 50-42-29-15
- **Le Blè en Herbe** (Gex) 04(50)41 62 13
109 Place Perdttemps, 01170 Gex
A quiet, moderately-priced restaurant, with a degree of elegance and simplicity, unpretentious and yet somewhat gastronomique. Nice, unpretentious equipe. Food is tasty - moderate prices, menus at 140, 146, and 200 FF + carte. Mousse de canard quite good; penache grillade - 4 grilled meats with sauce Bernaise - excellent and tender. Great cuisse de grenouilles in a garlic and herb sauce. Tasty desserts.

- **Le Champagne** (Divonne les Bains) 04(50)20 13 13
Ave de Geneve (au coin d' Avenue du Saleve)
In a country villa just outside of town. Excellent! Deserves the white hat in Gault Millau! Chateaubriand excellent, grilled to perfection. Great hors-d'oeuvres - magnificent dessert cart with tasty choices. The chef greeted the customers. Impressively varied menu, many poissons and viandes. Free seconds on vegetables. One of the best in the area! A little on the expensive side. Better value for your money than La Terrasse and Le Pirate, though comparable in expense with these.
- **Le Raisin** (Pont de Vaux) 04(85)30 30 97
2 Place Michel-Poisat, Pont-de-Vaux
Going further out to Burgundy ... a 2-3 hour drive ... This restaurant is one star in Michelin. An excellent terrine de fois, grenouilles, volaille de Bresse, crepes Parmentier. We think that it was a bad night on our try: The food was quite delicious except for incredibly slow service halfway through the dinner and a piece of beef that was the worst ever. Perhaps the chef died in the middle of this meal, so this is one to try again.
- **Auberge du Vieux Bois** (Divonne les Bains) 04(50)20 01 43
route de Gex
Coming from Gex, watch for the sign as you approach the outskirts of Divonne. The robust tastes of this excellent Auberge are heralded by the antique lettering on the broad carte ... Menus range from FF 100-260, and our group much enjoyed the five course menus at 235 and 260. Excellent, sweet, cold foie, huge portions of beef and seconds on the duck. Varied dessert menu including "Le Cepe" and sorbet arrosie (try the cassis with Creme de Cassis).
- **Le Socrate** (Geneva) (022) 320 1677
A famous bistrot in the city. Excellent food "down to earth" with some occasional inventive dishes. The owner has managed to create an excellent list of swiss wines, including some confidential releases. If you want to get to know how good swiss wines can be you should start from this place.
- **Cafe de Paris** (Geneva)
26 Rue du Mont Blanc
One dish fits all: famous entrecote à la Cafe de Paris.
- **Restaurant de la Rue des Belles Filles** (Geneva) (022) 310 4293
Rue Etienne Dumont, 1204 Geneve
Charming restaurant just off la Place du Bourg de Four, with a terrasse in an inner courtyard. Varied menu with excellent lunch specials at CHF 15 and superb tartare de boeuf.

- **Restaurant New Panoramic** (Geneva) (022) 738-5048
Haut-Lieu du Tartare 20 Quai du Seujet, fifth floor, 1201 Geneve
On the fifth floor overlooking the Rhone on quai du Seujet. Fabulous view over la Vielle Ville. The specialite is Tartare de boeuf flambe au Vodka, enthusiastically prepared à table by chef Roland.
- **La Passade** (Perroy,Suisse) (021) 825-1691
CH-1166 Perroy
Perroy is a charming Swiss village overlooking the North Shore of Lac Lemman, a few kilometers past Rolle. Some signs seem to be missing near the village, so we had to ask some boys for directions at the last turn. La Passade is a fine restaurant in the French country style, with good meat and lake fish specialites. The salade de maison (with walnuts) and rillettes de canard were also excellent. *Very good wine list featuring Suisse wines reasonably prized. Check out the Merlots of Ticcino.*
- **Hotel Parc** (Gex) 04(50)41 50 18
Avenue des Alpes
A sleeper, hidden in the courtyard of the Hotel Parc just north of the main traffic circle in Gex, on the road to Divonne. Elegant service and a strong menu, including several excellent types of foie. *This is an excellent, one-star level restaurant. The wine list is excellent although on the expensive side.*
- **Capuchin Gourmand** (Vougy) 04(50)34 03 50
route Bonneville, N205
Not so easy to find, but more than worth the effort. Nestled in the hamlet of Vougy, on the road to Chamonix, this restaurant has one star in Michelin and two white hats in Gault Millau. Run by the chef Guy Barbin and his charming wife Christine, one finds top of the line ambiance in a cheerful dining room, and gourmet delights to match: Try the feuilleté de foie à l'essence de truffe or foie gras with quince caramel.
- **Le Compagnard** (Versonnex) 04(50)41 11 43
A gem of a restaurant, which comes highly recommended by others. The menu was somewhat limited, but the dishes were moderately priced and of uniformly high quality. We enjoyed the escargots (snails), grenouilles à la Provençal and tournedos aux morilles.
- **Creperie Bretonne** (Saint-Genis) 04(50)28 22 08
Across from L'Hotel de Ville, this friendly and inexpensive restaurant specializes in food from Brittany, including crepes, galettes (the epinards-fromage was excellent) and cidre (brut et doux). The salade aux foies de volaille can be ordered saignant. Give this one a try for lunch.
- **L'Echalotte** (Geneva) (022) 320 5999

This is an unpretentious and inexpensive restaurant in Jonction, with simple but excellent dishes (menu around 30 SF) , an interesting ambiance and crowd and a modest but very well chosen wine list. An excellent value.

- **Café de Certoux** (Certoux, Campagne Genevoise) (022) 771 1032

A family owned restaurant located in the center of the tiny village of Certoux, next to the French border. This is a well-hidden treasure. The chef is young and the curious type searching new ingredients as well as new matches. His c