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Restaurant

Scampi (\$\$)

40 N Mentor Ave
Pasadena, CA 91106
Phone: (626) 568-4959

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Recommended: [Food](#), [Ambience](#), [Service](#), [Value](#)

Prompt seating - **yes** Romantic - **yes** Good for groups - **no**
Make reservations - **yes** Good for kids - **no** Recommended - **yes**

Best of

9.4

RECOMMENDED

Rate It!

What is this?

Citysearch Editorial Review

By Erika Dykstra

Editorial Rating: **Recommended**

A creative space plus a Japanese-influenced menu equals an extraordinary neighborhood restaurant.

The Scene

Hidden on a side street in what was last a fast-food joint, Scampi is small, bright and artsy. Modest tables are draped in white linens; bold, abstract paintings electrify stark white walls.

The Food

Simple yet imaginative, the kitchen favors Asian spices and powerful sauces over complex lists of ingredients. Fist-sized potato pancakes, layered with caramelized onions and thin slices of lightly smoked salmon, are topped with wasabi caviar and dollops of sour cream. Ginger sauce flatters a flawlessly grilled salmon filet. Crisp and surprisingly light, the deep-fried catfish (served with head and tail intact) rests in a pool of tangy ponzu sauce. Linguine is tossed with handfuls of seared bay scallops and a light, shiitake mushroom cream sauce. Also on the menu: carnivorous options--like chicken and duck--along with a token vegetarian dish.

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Restaurant Information

Cuisines
Californian

Hours
Mon-Thu 11am-2pm and

Parking
Street

French
Seafood

6pm-9pm, Fri-Sat 11am-
2pm and 5:30pm-10pm,
Sun 5:30pm-9pm

Special Features
Romantic
B.Y.O.B.

Dress Code
Very casual

Payment
American Express
Cash
Discover
MasterCard
Visa

Price Information*
\$\$ (\$21 to \$30)

* Restaurant prices are based on the average cost of a three-course dinner, excluding wine, tax and tips.

Insider Tips

Worth the Wait

Scampi is not the restaurant for pre-show dinner or a quick lunch. The food is excellent, but service is slow.

BYOB

Without a liquor license (though they hope to have one soon), Scampi has no corkage fee.

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User Rating: **Highly Recommended**

\$\$? Posted by [route66scott](#) on 09/05/2003

The food and service are absolutely wonderful. It is recommended that you have reservations. Dress, although acceptable as casual, is a little higher class. But to say this is a "\$\$" restaurant is ludicrous. It is more likely \$\$\$\$\$. Two glasses of wine, two glasses of port, and dinner, with tip was about \$130.

Pros: great food, incredible service

Cons: difficult parking

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Restaurant Scampi offers a great lunch menu featuring such specialities as Half-Roasted Chicken with Orange Sauce, Grilled Atlantic Salmon, Pasta with Ocean Garden Shrimp.

The dinner menu features Filet Mignon, Rack Of Lamb, Pasta with Seafood pasta, Grilled Swordfish.

This is just a sampling of the wonderful menu items.

All entrees are served with fresh vegetables.

There are a variety of salads to choose from.

Be sure to save room for the special desserts which include Strawberry Crème Brulée, Poached Pear with Raspberry Cream, or Grand-Marnier Peach with Espresso Ice Cream.

The menu was created by Chef Rafael Simental.

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