

Homing in on Good Restaurants via Internet Tools

by Gerry Patrick

Computer & Technology Group, Lexington Senior Center
Lexington, Massachusetts

January 5, 2011

Topics:

Restaurant Review Websites
voluntary customer reviews

Slides for this topic are in
this set, (Part One).

professional food critic reviews

Accessing Restaurant Menus

Online Reservation Websites

Restaurant Discount Coupons Online

Restaurant Food-safety Inspection Reports

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City:

Lexington, M

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Lexington Restaurants

Cuisine

- All (22)
- American (3)
- Asian (1)
- Bakery (3)
- Cafe (1)

Good for

- All (22)
- Bar scene (1)
- Large groups (1)

Dining options

- All (22)

Price

- All (22)
- \$ (3)
- \$\$ (4)

Reviews you can trust

1-20 of 22

[«](#) [1](#) [2](#) [»](#)

Sort by [Popularity ▼] [Price]

1 [Lexx](#)[map](#) | [directions](#)**#1** of 22 restaurants in Lexington**5** based on 12 reviews

Cuisines: American

Nice Place for Dinner Oct 21, 2010GREAT dinner! Oct 6, 2010**2** [Peet's Coffee & Tea](#)[map](#) | [directions](#)**#2** of 22 restaurants in Lexington**5** based on 2 reviews

Search by address or point of interest 🔍

Bertucci's Brick Oven Restaurant

5 7 Reviews

#6 of 22 restaurants in Lexington

Pizza

1777 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA 02420-5307

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2 mi 5 km

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Wicked Local Deals - Resta... x Garrison's Food & Spirits: D... x BRAZILIAN STEAK HOUSE ... x Garrison's Billerica x

www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=Garrison's&ns=1&find_loc=Billerica,+MA

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yelp
Real people. Real reviews. ®

Search for (e.g. taco, cheap dinner, Max's) **Garrison's** Near (Address, City, State or Zip) **Billerica, MA** **Search**

Welcome About Me Write a Review Find Reviews Invite Friends Messaging Talk Events Member Search

Garrison's Billerica

1. Garrison's Food & Spirits
Categories: Steakhouses, American (Traditional)

2. Garrison/Knight Financial Planning
Category: Financial Services

3. Garrison House
Categories: Museums, Local Flavor

4. Garrison Corben Atty - CLOSED
Category: Lawyers

This is the webpage that results from doing a search in Yelp, as filled in above. Yelp covers all businesses, not just restaurants. The map at right shows the location of each of the search "hits." The map can be dragged to a new area by using the mouse (or the red arrows), and with the "Redo..." box checked, will search for new hits on "Garrison" in the new map area. Note the active Filters can be shown, and changed (see next slide).

1 to 4 of 4 - Results per page: **10**

Mo' Map Map, stay put! Redo search in map

Map data ©2010 Google - Terms of Use

1 to 4 of 4

Wicked Local Deals - ... X

Garrison's Food & Spi... X

BRAZILIAN STEAK H... X

Garrison's Food & Spi... X

Restaurants Billerica X

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zipcar.

Comment: Arrived at this display by clicking on "Find Reviews," then clicking on the "Restaurants" heading under "Best of Yelp" at left, which brought up the extensive list of cuisine filters. Below that at left, click on "Show Filters" to get the additional sorting criteria shown. Clicking on "More features" at the bottom brings up a dialog box for type of parking, checking for "Open Sunday" or "Open Monday" and Liquor License, etc.

zipcar.

Restaurants Billerica

Browsing Billerica » Restaurants

1 to 10 of 321 - Results per page:

Refine By:

Afghan	Cambodian	German	Malaysian
African	Caribbean	Gluten-Free	Mediterranean
American (New)	Cheesesteaks	Greek	Mexican
American (Traditional)	Chicken Wings	Halal	Middle Eastern
Argentine	Chinese	Hawaiian	Modern European
Asian Fusion	Creperies	Himalayan/Nepalese	Mongolian
Barbeque	Cuban	Hot Dogs	Moroccan
Basque	Delis	Hungarian	Pakistani
Belgian	Diners	Indian	Persian/Iranian
Brasseries	Ethiopian	Indonesian	Peruvian
Brazilian	Fast Food	Irish	Pizza
Breakfast & Brunch	Filipino	Italian	Polish
British	Fish & Chips	Japanese	Portuguese
Buffets	Fondue	Korean	Russian
Burgers	Food Stands	Kosher	Sandwiches
Burmese	French	Latin American	Scandinavian
Cajun/Creole	Gastropubs	Live/Raw Food	Seafood

Sort By	Cities	Distance	Features	Price
Best Match	<input type="checkbox"/> Billerica	» Bird's-eye View	<input type="checkbox"/> Open Now (4:42 pm)	\$\$\$\$
» Highest Rated	<input type="checkbox"/> Lowell	Driving (5 mi.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Good for Groups	\$\$\$
Most Reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/> Chelmsford	Biking (2 mi.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Good for Kids	\$\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> Burlington	Walking (1 mi.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Take-out	\$
	... More Cities »	Within 4 blocks	... More features »	

Garrison's Food & Spirits

★★★★★ 11 reviews [Rating Details](#)

Categories: Steakhouses, American (Traditional) [\[Edit\]](#)

303 Boston Rd
Billerica, MA 01821

(978) 670-1202

www.GarrisonsRestaurant.com

Price Range: \$\$

Accepts Credit Cards: Yes

Parking: Private Lot

Attire: Casual

Good for Groups: Yes

Good for Kids: Yes

Takes Reservations: Yes

Waiter Service: Yes

Wheelchair Accessible: Yes

Outdoor Seating: No

Good For: Dinner

Alcohol: Full Bar

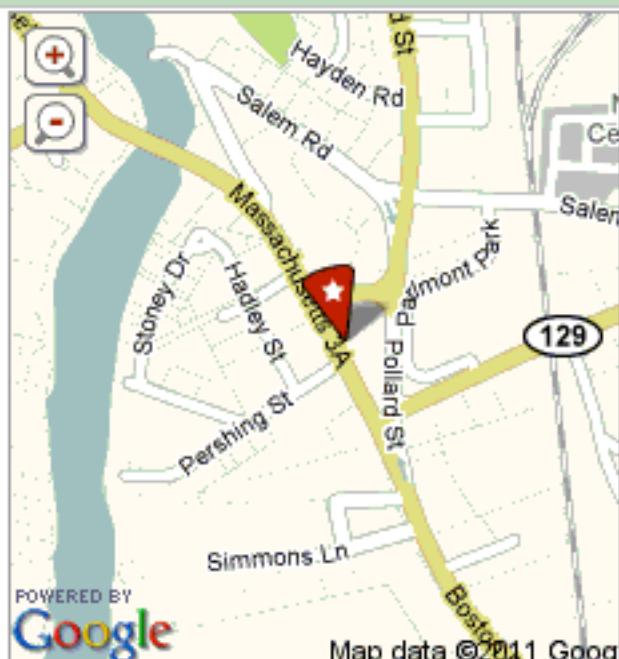
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11 reviews for Garrison's Food & Spirits

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All Reviews



★★★★★ 10/14/2010

From the outside I almost did not go in.
The inside seems like a Dennys.

The food and service is AWESOME!!!!!!

Marco V.
San Diego, CA

1

24

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★★★★ 12 reviews

North Billerica, MA



Emerald Rose

★★★★ 27 reviews

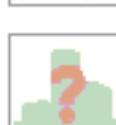
Billerica, MA



The Meat House

★★★★ 3 reviews

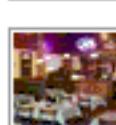
Chelmsford, MA



Riverview Restaurant

★★★★ 5 reviews

Billerica, MA



Mangia Mangia Italian...

★★★★ 16 reviews

Billerica, MA

Garrison's Food & Spirits

★★★★★ 11 reviews Rating Details

Categories: Steakhouses, American (Traditional)

303 Boston Rd
Billerica, MA 01821

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Parking: Private Lot

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11 reviews for Garrison's Food & Spirits

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All Reviews



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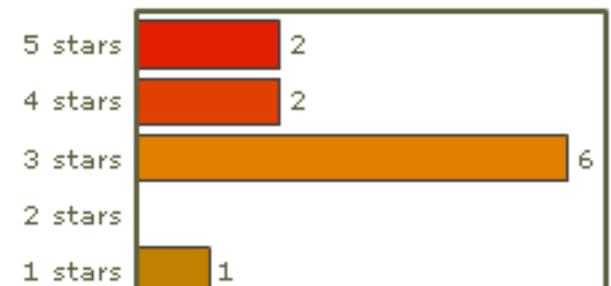
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Marco V.
San Diego, CA

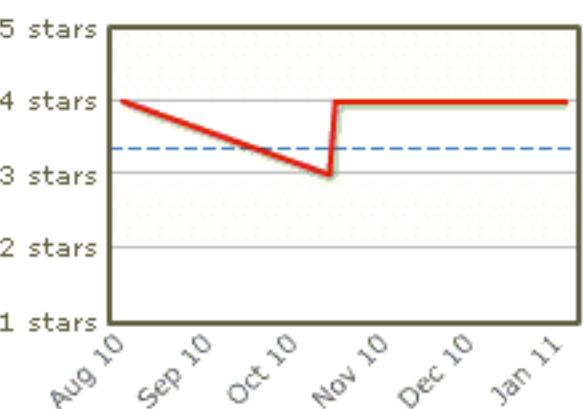
1
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Rating Details

Rating Distribution
over 11 reviews



Rating Over Time
(30-day average)



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Belly Buster Diner

★★★★ 12 reviews

North Billerica, MA



Emerald Rose

★★★★ 27 reviews

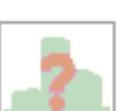
Billerica, MA



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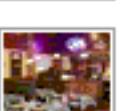
Chelmsford, MA



Riverview Restaurant

★★★★ 5 reviews

Billerica, MA



Mangia Mangia Italian...

★★★★ 16 reviews

Billerica, MA

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Right this way.

OpenTable User Agreement

User Agreement:

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OpenTable provides the Services to USER for the purpose of assisting USER in securing dining reservations at participating third party restaurants (each a "Restaurant"). In response to a USER's online request, the OpenTable Site directly contacts the Restaurant's computerized database of reservations. The availability of reservations is determined at the time of USER's query. Once a reservation is made by USER, OpenTable will provide confirmation of the reservation to USER by email. By using the Services, USER agrees to receive reservation confirmations by email after booking a reservation through the OpenTable Site.

2. NO SHOW POLICY

OpenTable is committed to providing superior quality services to its USERS and Restaurants. To assist us in maintaining a consistently high level of service with the participating Restaurants and patrons, USERS are asked to cancel any reservations that they will be unable to honor at least 30 minutes in advance on the day of the reservation. You may cancel your reservation online or call the restaurant directly. In the case of larger party reservations, where the restaurant has requested a credit card, you may be required to cancel your reservation in accordance with that restaurant's individual cancellation policy, which will always

be shared with the USER at the time the reservation is made.

If you are unable to keep your reservation and you fail to cancel, OpenTable will send you an email letting you know that our records indicate that you were a no-show. By using the Services, USER agrees to receive no-show confirmations by email after a Restaurant and/or the OpenTable Site reports your reservation was not honored, whether or not that was in fact the case. Your OpenTable account will be terminated if you no-show for four reservations within the same twelve-month period. If you receive a no-show confirmation email in error, please [click here](#) for information on how to dispute it. USER agrees that all final no-show determination will be made by OpenTable in its sole discretion.

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- Utilize any device, software or routine that will interfere or attempt to interfere with the functionality of the OpenTable Site.
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15. WAIVER

Any waiver of any provision of this Agreement, or a delay by any party in the enforcement of any right hereunder, shall neither be construed as a continuing waiver nor create an expectation of non-enforcement of that or any other provision or right.

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- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arcade/Game Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Dress Code: Casual | <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Theater Nearby | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Scene |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet Facility Available | <input type="checkbox"/> Dress Code: Formal (Jacket Required) | <input type="checkbox"/> NFL Sunday Ticket™ | <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beer and Wine Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment District | <input type="checkbox"/> No Rewards for Catering | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Viewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bistro | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Mic | <input type="checkbox"/> Street Parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buffet | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Bar | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Dining | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Nearby |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay/Lesbian Scene | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Lot/Garage | <input type="checkbox"/> Trendy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BYOB | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Certificates Available | <input type="checkbox"/> Piano Bar | <input type="checkbox"/> Trivia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changing Table | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Hour | <input type="checkbox"/> Pool Table | <input type="checkbox"/> TV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Menu Available | <input type="checkbox"/> High Chairs Available | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Room Available | <input type="checkbox"/> Valet Parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comedy | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Menu Available | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet Conversation | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfront Location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing | <input type="checkbox"/> Karaoke | <input type="checkbox"/> Reservations Accepted | <input type="checkbox"/> Wi-Fi Available |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Live Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Reservations Recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> Wine Bar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Smoking Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Live Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Romantic | <input type="checkbox"/> Wine List |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DJ | <input type="checkbox"/> Martini Bar | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic View | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dress Code: Business Casual | <input type="checkbox"/> Microbrewer | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping Mall Location | |

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Best Fine Dining

1. [Fugaku](#)
2. [Toro](#)
3. [Dalí](#)
4. [Giacomo's \(North End\)](#)
5. [Neptune Oyster](#)

Best Casual Dining

1. [Redbones Barbecue](#)
2. [Pizzeria Regina](#)
3. [Mr. Bartley's Burger...](#)
4. [Border Cafe \(Harvard...\)](#)
5. [Zaftigs Delicatessen](#)

Best Cheap Eats

1. [Mike's Pastry](#)
2. [Flour Bakery + Cafe](#)
3. [Blue Ribbon BBQ \(Newton\)](#)
4. [Santarpio's Pizza](#)
5. [Anna's Taqueria...](#)

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Restaurants that Boston critics and bloggers are talking about right now:



KO Catering and Pies

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1. [KO Catering and Pies](#)
2. [Lord Hobo](#)
3. [Back Bay Social Club](#)
4. [Ariana Restaurant](#)
5. [Towne Stove & Spirits](#)
6. [The Gallows](#)
7. [Mumbai Chopstix](#)
8. [Russell House Tavern](#)
9. [Foundry on Elm](#)
10. [Cheeseboy](#)

Here are the most popular neighborhoods and types of food in Boston.
[See the complete list.](#)

Top Neighborhoods:

- [Back Bay \(332\)](#)
- [Brookline \(161\)](#)
- [Central Square \(95\)](#)
- [Chinatown \(166\)](#)
- [Davis Square \(50\)](#)
- [Faneuil Hall \(83\)](#)
- [Fenway \(164\)](#)
- [Harvard Square \(120\)](#)
- [Jamaica Plain \(99\)](#)
- [Kendall Square \(122\)](#)
- [Kenmore \(164\)](#)
- [North End \(147\)](#)
- [Porter Square \(45\)](#)
- [South Boston \(181\)](#)
- [South End \(111\)](#)
- [Theater District \(41\)](#)

Top Types of Food:

- [American \(1126\)](#)
- [Breakfast \(211\)](#)
- [Brunch \(211\)](#)
- [Chinese \(507\)](#)
- [Indian \(112\)](#)
- [Italian \(639\)](#)
- [Mexican \(192\)](#)
- [Pizza \(1410\)](#)
- [Pub Food \(174\)](#)
- [Sandwiches \(882\)](#)
- [Seafood \(323\)](#)
- [Soups \(229\)](#)
- [Steakhouse \(100\)](#)
- [Subs \(882\)](#)
- [Sushi \(158\)](#)
- [Thai \(151\)](#)
- [Vegetarian \(110\)](#)



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Chefmoz.org: Online Guides

Boston's Hidden Restaurants - www.hiddenboston.com. Brief reviews, mostly focusing on the Greater Boston area, but with coverage extending to Rhode Island and Connecticut.

DMoz: Massachusetts - [Dmoz.org/...](http://Dmoz.org/) General Internet directory of Massachusetts websites.

Metrowest Critics - www.metrowestcritics.com. A couple's capsule reviews and ratings of eateries in the Metrowest region.

The Phantom Gourmet - www.phantomgourmet.com. A Boston television and radio restaurant review show.

The Restaurant Review - www.restreview.com. Offers full reviews of restaurants, mostly in the Greater Boston area, but also covering other parts of the state, as well as Rhode Island.

Wendy and Tom Dine Out in Massachusetts - www.birchmire.com/restaurants.html. One couple's detailed reviews of the restaurants where they've eaten.

- [Abington](#) (5; 12 reviews, 3 links)
- [Acton](#) (6; 20 reviews, 2 links)
- [Adams](#) (2)
- [Agawam](#) (3; 1 review, 1 link)
- [Amesbury](#) (3; 8 reviews)
- [Amherst](#) (2, 1 link)
- [Andover](#) (8; 13 reviews, 3 links)
- [Arlington](#) (28; 83 reviews, 20 links)
- [Ashland](#) (4; 9 reviews, 1 link)
- [Attleboro](#) (1, 1 link)
- [Auburn](#) (5; 6 reviews, 2 links)
- [Ayer](#) (1; 4 reviews)
- [Barnstable](#) (2, 2 links)
- [Groton](#) (1, 1 link)
- [Halifax](#) (1; 3 reviews, 1 link)
- [Hamilton](#) (2; 10 reviews, 1 link)
- [Hanover](#) (2; 2 reviews, 1 link)
- [Hanson](#) (4; 4 reviews, 1 link)
- [Harwich Port](#) (1)
- [Harwich](#) (2; 1 review, 1 link)
- [Haverhill](#) (17; 32 reviews, 2 links)
- [Hingham](#) (9; 26 reviews, 9 links)
- [Holden](#) (1, 1 link)
- [Holyoke](#) (2)
- [Hudson](#) (3; 21 reviews)
- [Hull](#) (3; 12 reviews, 2 links)
- [Plymouth](#) (7; 14 reviews, 3 links)
- [Princeton](#) (3; 1 review, 3 links)
- [Provincetown](#) (8; 17 reviews, 8 links)
- [Quincy](#) (28; 35 reviews, 10 links)
- [Randolph](#) (5; 68 reviews, 4 links)
- [Reading](#) (7; 17 reviews, 1 link)
- [Revere](#) (5; 18 reviews, 6 links)
- [Rockland](#) (2, 1 link)
- [Rockport](#) (4; 20 reviews, 4 links)
- [Rowley](#) (1)
- [Salem](#) (17; 28 reviews, 7 links)