

# Give Your Meal a Feline Twist at These Cat-Themed Restaurants

at cafes are trending around the world. But what about cat-themed restaurants for cat lovers? Yes, they exist, too! Be sure to include these establishments on your itinerary when you visit these destinations.

#### The Cats Restaurant and Tavern

17533 Santa Cruz Hwv. Los Gatos, California thecatsrestaurantandtavern.com

It makes purrfect sense that a city called Los Gatos, Spanish for "the cats," would be home to an eponymous restaurant, which is easy to find thanks to the two large concrete cats sculpted by Robert Paine and known as Leo and

Leona. Since 1922. they have quarded the entrance to Poet's Canvon, where the restaurant is situated.

The building, like its feline namesakes, has had many lives. It was once a stop on a stagecoach route and had a history as a speakeasy and as a bordello. During the 1940s and '50s, the building housed a realty office, a gun shop, and a sporting goods store. It has operated as a restaurant since the 1960s and has earned a reputation for slow pit barbecue ribs and steaks featuring an award-win-

> ning rub. Go hungry, and be prepared to take a doggie, er, kitty bag, when vou leave.



### The Country Cat Dinner **House and Bar**

7937 SE Stark St. Portland, Oregon thecountrycat.net

Farm-to-table dining, a signature of the trendy slow food movement, is a popular way for any foodie to spend an evening. The owners, culinary team Adam and Jackie Sappington refer to their dishes as "A Made-From-Scratch, Farm-to-Table Experience" that highlights American heritage cuisine. The couple just published a cookbook called Heartlandia: Heritage Recipes from The Country Cat featuring some of their special soul food recipes.

Why the name The Country Cat? "When we were working on the concept, an image of a country cat slinking in and out of a typical farmhouse kitchen kept coming to mind," Jackie explained.

Jackie is a self-confessed "pie geek," so leave room for dessert!

And if you are literally on a flying visit to Portland, there is a second location of The Country Cat at Portland International Airport.

## Check out these, too! Monkey Cat Restaurant and Bar

805 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA 95603 monkeycat.com

#### The 2 Cats Inn and Cafe 130 Cottage St.

Bar Harbor, ME 04609 207-288-2808

#### It's The Cat's Meow Cafe

138 Robinson St. Markham, ON L3P 5H5, Canada itsthecatsmeowcafe.com



## The Stray Cat Cafe

5866 Washington Blvd. Arlington, Virginia thestraycatcafe.com

The walls of the Stray Cat Cafe are decorated with the whimsical cat art of local artist Jessica Lovelace. The cafe menu features American sandwich and sundae favorites with quirky feline names. Curly fries are listed as Mouse Tails and onion rings are Tail Chasers. The cafe's signature Catnip Dip is a cheesy spinach and artichoke dip made fresh daily and served with warm pita wedges and tricolor tortilla chips.

Owned by Pam McAlwee and Ross Underwood, The Stray Cat Cafe is the sister establishment to the Lost Dog Cafe and supports the twosome's Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, which rescues and places more than a thousand abandoned dogs and cats in forever homes every year. A portion of your bill automatically goes to support the foundation. All of the cats featured in framed photographs on the walls are rescued felines, and some are still available for adoption.



Ziggy (pictured) and Fudge "work" as feline muses for Sandy Robins, an award-winning multimedia pet lifestyle expert and pet industry person-

ality. They have helped "write" three books, including The Original CAT FANCY Cat Bible (1-5 Press, 2014). When he is not lying on her desk blocking the computer screen, Ziggy likes to play fetch with his toys and direct food operations in the kitchen. Learn more about Sandy at sandyrobinsonline.com.



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