



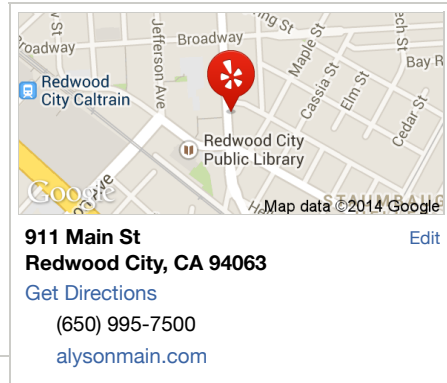
Aly's on Main



69 reviews

[Details](#)

\$\$ • American (New)

[Edit](#)

[Watch video](#)


Come join us for a glass of delicious...


[See all 26 photos](#)

 "Rounded out with nice salads and **wine** and it was a great meal." in 13 reviews

Alcohol: Beer & Wine Only


 "Chef Michael treated us to a **lamb meatball** as a starter and bread pudding, that was UNREAL, for dessert." in 9 reviews

 "My wife talked me into trying the **kale salad** and much to my surprise it was delicious." in 6 reviews

Recommended Reviews

 Yelp Sort [Date](#) [Rating](#) [Elites](#)

English 69


Carrie S.
 San Jose, CA
 Elite '14

 107 friends
 436 reviews


4/9/2014

A MUST try!!

I had a large group dinner here for work, and the food was amazing. Rebecca was our server, and we never waited too long to order, get drinks, or get our check.

They easily accommodated my gluten allergy, which was fantastic. They can also take care of vegetarians and vegans, based on what I saw on the menu.

I ordered the dates, which were to die for good. I enjoyed the seared ahi tuna for dinner, along with several others at the table. No one had left overs.

The restaurant itself is far from glamorous, but the food and service more than make up for it. I love these types of restaurants. I would rather eat at a place that focuses on food and service, than a place that just looks really nice but cannot really deliver on what I am paying for.

They could use a few more wine selections, but other than that, I would totally come back here again.

Today 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm **Closed now**
[Menu](#)

\$\$\$\$ Price range \$11-30

Hours

Mon	Closed
Tue	11:30 am - 2:30 pm 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Wed	11:30 am - 2:30 pm 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Thu	11:30 am - 2:30 pm Closed now 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Fri	11:30 am - 2:30 pm 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Sat	5:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Sun	Closed

[Edit business info](#)

More business info

Takes Reservations	Yes
Delivery	No
Take-out	Yes
Accepts Credit Cards	Yes
Good For	Dinner
Parking	Street
Wheelchair Accessible	Yes
Good for Kids	Yes
Good for Groups	Yes
Attire	Casual
Ambience	Casual
Noise Level	Average
Alcohol	Beer & Wine Only
Outdoor Seating	Yes



Teena M.
Burlingame, CA
34 friends
7 reviews

3/30/2014

Had reservations at 7pm and did not get seated until 7:45. Once we were seated we thought the waiter would bring us some water and bread but turns out our waiter ended being the bar tender so we got no water and no bread.

I ordered the skirt steak with mashed potatoes only when they brought out my plate it was a skirt steak the size of a peanut and they served it with french fries instead of mashed potatoes! For \$23 it was definitely not worth it. I don't think I will be back anytime soon.



Comment from Alison L. of Aly's on Main
Business Owner

3/31/2014 • Hi Teena, we're sorry to hear you had a frustrating experience dining with us. We're pretty new to... [Read more](#)



Jamie L.
Redwood City, CA
0 friends
11 reviews

★★★★★ 3/20/2014

I took my dad here for his birthday, and we both had a fantastic time. Service was prompt, efficient, friendly, and not uptight at all.

Before our dinner, we were served (compliments of the chef!) the prosciutto-wrapped, blue cheese-stuffed dates over roasted beets with pomegranate sauce and mango puree. It was absolutely divine!

My dad ordered the beef bolognese and I had the lamb rib chops with mint pesto. I love that their menu is not pages long; it lets me know that they do each dish well. Our dishes were perfectly portioned, and I even had to take one lamb rib chop home. For dessert we ordered the brioche and champagne raising bread pudding. It was much denser and more moist than I expected, with a (rum??) sauce drizzled on top. I liked that it wasn't super sweet. I recommend each of these dishes!

Everything is organic, local, and is made in house - the pasta, the butchering, the sauces, everything! - and it's super affordable for the quality and flavor that you get!

The chef and owner, Michael, greeted us at our table to make sure we were enjoying ourselves. Michal has a fascinating background - ask him about Pixar, aerospace engineering, Steve Jobs, his cultural heritage, how he proposed to his wife... and I get the feeling he would happily swap stories with other patrons from his community (he lives here in RWC, too). His work ethic (15 hour days, 6 days/week) and vision for Aly's (named after his wife) is inspiring.

Just go and see for yourself. Aly's is a gem and I want more places like this downtown!!!

PS Just a note in response to other reviews I read here... anyone complaining about the temperature of their meals not being hot enough -- no dish should come to your table piping hot. Especially if you have a meat dish, which should "rest" a few minutes, lest it drains all its flavorful juices and dries up the minute you cut into it. Our dishes were perfect temperature-wise, definitely NOT cold. Just because a dish isn't screaming hot when it arrives doesn't mean it is cold!!! It means you can actually eat it once it arrives and you don't have to sit around waiting for it to

Wi-Fi **Free**Has TV **Yes**Waiter Service **Yes**Caters **Yes**

This business is a Yelp advertiser.



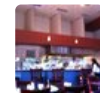
Brien S.
First to review

From the business

Aly's on Main is a gathering spot for the community featuring affordable food that's as good for you as it is to eat. A bright daylight window and great street view make this a great spot ...

[Learn more about Aly's on Main](#)

People also viewed



Downtown

★★★★★ 54 reviews

always aim to please and Chef Charles cranks out some yummy dishes.



Vesta

★★★★★ 453 reviews

Tonight we got the always delicious sausage and honey.



La Viga Restaurant

★★★★★ 330 reviews

Caldo de Mariscos (\$16) - this was by far the favorite.

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List of New American restaurants: Restaurants with a melting pot of...

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cool off!! Duh!!!



Kim N.

Mountain View, CA

Elite '14

2019 friends

7704 reviews

★★★★☆ 3/18/2014

This review is long overdue. It seems that RWC is having a bit of a food renaissance and Aly's is one of the newcomers to help in that movement. I guess this used to be a Thai place? Never went there but decided to check this place out with an old coworker who works nearby. We sauntered in no reservations so we saddled up to the bar. SPlit a handful of items:

-Spicy Lamb Meatballs
TZATZIKI, POMEGRANATE GLAZE,
SUMAC, PISTACHIOS

-Grilled Dates and Prosciutto
DATES, CAMBAZOLA, PROSCIUTTO,
ORGANIC BEETS, SPICY MANGO EMULSION

-Grilled Lamb T-Bone Chops
CANNELLINI RAGOUT, BRAISED RAINBOW CHARD,
MINT PESTO

-Fettuccine Alla Bolognese
GRASS FED BEEF RAGOUT, PARMIGIANO
STRAVECCHIO

Everything was really tasty. My only complaint was the date dish was a bit small for the price. However the flavours were all good across the board. I think they're onto something here. Fresh local product driven restaurant with interesting combinations. Now sitting at the bar we got the full attention of the bartender's service as no one else was there. So when you're thinking about eating here, that maybe a tactic to use. It's quick, and you get the whole menu anyways. Definitely looking to try more fare as they change the menu for the summer.



Comment from Alison L. of Aly's on Main

Business Owner

3/23/2014 • We're happy to hear you'd describe us as part of Redwood City's food renaissance, Kim! Thanks a ton... [Read more](#)



David W.

Foster City, CA

Elite '14

85 friends

260 reviews

★★★★★ 3/19/2014

1 check-in here

I don't work that far away from Aly's, but this was my first visit.

Great beer selection, service was awesome, food was excellent..

My only complaint would be the portions were VERY Small...

I will be back... I enjoyed my time and dinner here!



Allysia R.
Redwood City, CA
0 friends
4 reviews

★★★★★ 4/5/2014

We went here to celebrate a birthday and had a great time. I had the duck and my boyfriend had the gnocchi. The kitchen sent over a little taste of savory bread pudding, which I loved. The dishes had that extra oomph of good flavor.



C D.
Atherton, CA
0 friends
5 reviews

★★★★★ 3/31/2014

I've now been to Aly's three times, and there is a reason I keep going back: the food is phenomenal! It is fresh, well prepared, and delicious. They get their meat in fresh everyday and grind it on site to make their burgers - one of the reasons they are so delicious.

The owner/chef is passionate about food and his restaurant and it shows! I've been there for lunch and dinner and have always walked away thinking of the next time what I'm going to get the next time.

The first visit was close to the time they opened and I'll admit that the service was somewhat spotty. However, I was there last Thursday and we had excellent service. Actually I need to apologize to Michael, we reserved a large table and for various reasons, half our party was a no show. However, they gave me no grief and even though we stayed late talking and drinking wine, they never asked us to leave and kept on checking on us.

I highly recommend Aly's - a fabulous new alternative in RWC!



Cleo C.
Redwood City, CA
18 friends
92 reviews

★★★★★ 2/28/2014

2 check-ins here

The burger, the lamb balls, marrow , kale salad. Isn't THAT where it's at?

Everything was cooked to order---and done well. Marrow on toast, burgers.

I'm sure it's not THAT healthy, but the thrice fried potatoes were yummy!

Here's the dessert:





Max B.
Berkeley, CA
3 friends
2 reviews

★★★★★ 3/28/2014

Great new addition to downtown Redwood city. Still working out some of the smoothness of service, but nice folks and great food. Go there and eat well. Good, concise wine list, solid selection of draft and bottle beers.



Yesi P.
Palo Alto, CA
Elite '14
56 friends
107 reviews

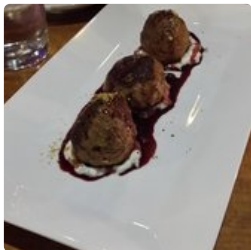
★★★★☆ 2/26/2014

1 check-in here

Love trying new places and Aly's on main was so good. They pride themselves with organic and healthy produce and meats.

I went on valentine's day and enjoyed the grass fed chops with garbanzo beans and my husband had the fish. Both dishes were great. My meat was tender and delicious!.

The restaurant has a nice bar and the servers were nice and so glad he recommended the chops.



Lorrie N.

★★★★☆ 2/21/2014

**Atherton, CA**

9 friends

2 reviews

A superb burger!!! Lunch menu is small but well worth it!
Food is super fresh and organic. Great example of the renaissance in Redwood City!!!
The fish tacos are nicely seasoned - perfectly cooked and seasoned. A great balance of cooking and chemistry!

**Marco M.****San Francisco, CA**

0 friends

36 reviews

2/10/2014

What a find. A superb meal at a San Francisco style restaurant in down town redwood city. I saw their glowing review on SFgate and decided to try it.
The Bamboo flooring and high ceiling made the space feel warm and airy at the same time. Service was professional and on point throughout the meal.
We had the dates stuffed with blue cheese and the lamb meatballs for our appetizers. They were fantastic. My wife talked me into trying the kale salad and much to my surprise it was delicious.
I had the Mahi for my entree and my wife loved her Bavette steak.
For dessert we shared the brioche bread pudding and that too was superb.
Found the mark up on wine to be very reasonable.
We will be back for sure.
Great find in peninsula. Nice not to have to drive to SF for a good meal.

**Mahi Mahi with olives and capers****Justin S.****Saratoga, CA**

Elite '14

56 friends

131 reviews

1/30/2014

1 check-in here

Listed in [New American](#)

I'm a big fan of these "New American" restaurants, so I decided to check out Aly's.

Aly's selling point I think is the fact that they use 'farm to fork' policies where everything is locally produced. Frankly I can't tell a difference between food quality and taste but it's supposed to be fresher and supports local businesses.

Food: I got the grilled lamb-tnbone chops and the GF got Aly's Duck. Both were good at reasonably priced. I love "New American" food because they throw in interesting

stuff like 'walnut-pomegranate reduction' for the duck.
Who thinks of these things!? These creative chefs of course... probably named Aly? Edit: her name is Alison, *duh* should've figured :)

Service: Service was very good. Server was personable and water constantly refilled. No faults here.

overall, I think it was a very reasonably priced dinner with good food and service.

Edit: her name is Allison, *duh* should've figured :)



Maria B.
Emerald Hills, CA
0 friends
3 reviews

★★★★★ 1/28/2014

Excellent food, with great concept of all organic and locally produced. I had the homemade gnocchi and I was impressed with the flavor (I cook Italian food, and make my own pasta sauce as well). For appetizers, we had the "dates with beets" and they had an incredible flavor. The service was great. I would like the decor to be a bit more trendy to give it the 5 stars, but overall, a Fabulous restaurant.



Greg F.
Stockton, CA
0 friends
36 reviews

★★★☆☆ 2/27/2014

Dammit. We so wanted to like this place.

It was a bad sign that there wasn't a single customer when we arrived, but it was early, and given all the high marks here I dismissed the completely empty dining room.

The service is good. The greeting, the bartender and the server were all very nice. It was weird watching the staff of 6-7 sort of hanging out waiting for customers. Can't really fault them for that.

I'm not sure what the owner is going for here. The bar physically dominates the "dining room" The music is old school rock like AC/DC. This is all fine for a rockin' bar and grill burger joint with modest prices, beer flowing, party atmosphere. But that wasn't there at all.

Unfortunately at least for here they seem to be missing all the marks. The price of the food deserves a dining experience. The rock music and neon lighting really don't add anything.

I asked our server if the flat iron steak was the only steak option. Yes. OK, I will have that. My dinner consisted of three slices of meat and while it was very nice in texture and flavor it was only three slices of meat. Maybe 4oz. I didn't ask what shared the plate when I ordered. Maybe my bad. French fries and not really very awesome, 22 bucks. Three slices of meat and broken french fries.

Wife got a buger which our server mentioned was what everyone liked there. I think maybe that would be the call. Same french fries, way more food on the plate and only about 15 bucks. For a good burger and fries.

Our check arrived in a plastic tray like Denny's. Not sure if that means we are supposed to find a register or what.

Bill came to 80 bucks that included one very small appetizer, and one glass of wine for each us. I felt bad leaving only a 10 dollar tip, but crap for 90 bucks we felt a little ripped off as it was. Normally I would be thrilled

having a nice dinner out for 2 for less than a hundred bucks. But I left hungry and need a couple bucks to get something to eat.

Oh well.....



Sarah W.
San Jose, CA
28 friends
5 reviews

★☆☆☆☆ 1/6/2014

My co-worker and I tried this establishment on 1/2/14 for lunch as neither of us had tried the place before.

I'll cut to the chase for the low score first.....
Both my co-worker and I had multiple charges on our credit cards from this restaurant. We asked for a split bill, paid, and left the restaurant. The next day my co-worker was notified by his credit card company multiple charges from Aly's on Main were charged to his account and they turned off his credit card and would issue him a new number. My co-worker asked me to check my card account to see if the same thing happened. It did. It appeared the correct amount was charged, then reversed, then a higher amount recharged. I called my card company and disputed the higher charge.

If you're eating here, pay cash and don't give them your credit/bank card.

As for the food....

Upon being seated we were told what menu items were sold out or nearly sold out which seemed odd as it was only the lunch hour and there were only a handful of tables occupied.

For my meal I ordered the fish tacos which were average. They were good but nothing amazing. I also tried the espresso creme brulee which was interesting. I liked the espresso flavor and creaminess but after about 4 bites it was all I could take. My suggestion would be to share the dessert.

The other person with me had a pasta dish which can be summed up the same.. it was good but nothing amazing or special. They also tried a German chocolate mousse (I think). They said it was good.

For what it was, I would say it was pricey for lunch. I can't speak for their dinner menu as I didn't see it. I understand they are organic, fresh, "natural" food base establishment but hopefully in time they can offer better priced lunch specials for the working crowd.



Comment from Alison L. of Aly's on Main
Business Owner

1/6/2014 • Yelp community and customers, please read:

In today's world where identity theft and credit card...

[Read more](#)



Amanda G.
Menlo Park, CA
Elite '14
585 friends

★☆☆☆☆ 1/2/2014

1 check-in here

1281 reviews

Had we been in a better mood, we would have laughed at how many things went wrong here.

We were planning on having dinner at Patty Shack, but ONCE AGAIN they closed early. The hostess of Aly's was outside trying to lure people in. After hearing her description of the burger, we decided to have dinner here.

BIG SCREW UP#1

We order, and a few minutes later we're told they're out of the burger. Really? I get that they're new and not busy enough to make lots of items, but when your menu is that small, being out of something is a major flaw.

There wasn't much else on the menu that we were interested in, but we finally decided to get one order of the carbonara and one order of the Bolognese.

Another server came over to apologize, and then went on and on about how awesome the burger is. Kind of pissed my husband and I off.

BIG SCREW UP#2.

My hubby ordered a ginger ale, and the server said they had ginger beer, and brought him that. Turns out the ginger beer he brought him was alcoholic. Ginger beer is generally NOT alcoholic, and we had drinks earlier and didn't want more booze. It also came to mind if we had brought my FIL who's sober now, that would be a serious issue.

BIG SCREW UP#3

The carbonara came out in a clump. Totally gross, and not what this dish is supposed to be like. We sent it back, and decided we weren't ordering anything else.

The chef apologized, and admitted what had gone wrong and how mad he was about it. Ok, but it shouldn't have happened.

BIG SCREW UP #4

The server told us the chef was making something special for us for dessert. Nice, but neither of us wanted dessert. Turned out the "special" was bread pudding. Not anything "special", it's on the menu and the cheapest dessert to produce.

Also, my guy and I don't eat raisins, I don't eat that much dairy, and my hubby hates bread pudding.

I would have preferred he had just comped something, or asked if there was a dessert we wanted.

BIG SCREW UP#5

The server decided to comp us an entree, but when he brought the check, we had been charged for stuff we didn't get.

Every employee working there was at the POS trying to figure out how to reverse the charge, and charge us correctly.

After 15 minutes of this, they decided to just comp the whole meal since they couldn't figure it out.

The only positive I can give this place is: the bread was good, and the Bolognese was good.

For healthy and organic meals, I'll stick to my own cooking.



Comment from Alison L. of Aly's on Main
Business Owner

1/3/2014 • Dear Amanda,
Although we recently opened we are blessed to be well
received by the community. We are... [Read more](#)



Victoria C.

Daly City, CA

Elite '14

776 friends

306 reviews

★★★★★ 12/21/2013

Fantastic.

Fantastic.

FAN

TAS

TIC!!!

That is the only word that comes to mind to describe this culinary delight. I have been waiting for YEARS for a restaurant to open in Redwood City that genuinely serves fresh, healthy, delectable food. Redwood City is so sparse and the choices for decent food is minimal. The closest options are in Palo Alto and when you have only an hour for lunch, the drive is impossible.

I stumbled across this place while looking for a simple date night restaurant for me and my honey. When I asked him what he wanted he responded with, "Something healthy. I don't want to leave feeling all bloated and shit." Ugh, SUCH a girl. When I came across this new restaurant, I knew it would be perfect. It's only been open about a month so we came at the perfect time. I always recommend going to new restaurants around the first 3 months of opening. This is the time in which they whole staff is excited and really accommodating. This is really great because this is when you can start to make friends with everyone and if you plan on coming back, they will treat you with the best customer service.

Completely accessible, it's located on Main street in Downtown Redwood City. Parking is decent and it's really easy to find. The whole staff is incredibly kind and really go out of their way to make you feel welcome and to really give you an outstanding culinary experience. I arrived a bit late but my honey sat at the bar and got a glass of wine. They gave him an amuse bouche, which was a meatball with pomegranates and a taziki sauce. It was SO good. We switched seats because we wanted to sit at a table and the crew was happy to oblige.

This really is the perfect date place because the staff makes you feel like royalty. We had a full 3 course meal. I had the Persimmon Salad, Spaghetti Carbonara and the bread pudding. He had the lamb dish.

The menu was simple and easy to understand. No pretention here. The waiter (Neil) told us that almost every aspect of Aly's is organic. Right down to the products they use. I totally had a Portlandia moment when my date asked, "Are the menus compostable?" And apparently they are! Haha.

Every single dish was cooked with perfection. Portions were decent and just enough. I really felt like the price to portion ratio was more than appropriate.

I especially loved the bread pudding. I have been obsessed with bread pudding and theirs is good. My spaghetti was SO yummy. A nice white sauce (which I LOVE) and crispy pancetta. Because we were talking so much, I was eating my food slowly, even though it was SO

delicious. It did get cold and I really wanted to finish it. I asked Neil if he would ask the chef to reheat it. I didn't want to offend the chef but the chef was so nice and heated it up. I ate the whole plate. The owner/executive chef was the icing on the cake. So kind and even came to our to talk with us.

Aly's really is a superior dining experience. Comparable to experiences in San Francisco or Beverly Hills where they treat the cream of the crop like royalty. Aly's treats everyone like royalty. A must try this holiday season.

Thanks to everyone at Aly's for making our experience unforgettable. I really appreciate the kindness and it made our date so amazing.



Cynthia A.
Milpitas, CA

Elite '14

159 friends

213 reviews

★★★★★ 1/3/2014

1 check-in here

Ok these past reviews are a bit strange. Why would you round down to offset other peoples reviews? Give credit where credit is due.

I came for lunch today and had a 5 star experience. I dont include "decor" as part as my rating system unless its completely whack.

The food was organic, fresh, and delicious! My girls came home and actually ate their leftover lunch for dinner! That never happens! My fish tacos were seasoned and cooked to perfection and the French green beans with lemon dressing complimented it perfectly.

Service was very courteous and he made sure the kids were happy campers.

My little one loved it so much she was raving to my husband about this place while not sharing her leftovers with him. So I promised we'd take him for dinner soon. We will have to try the much raved about grass fed burger.

Great addition to the downtown Redwood City dining scene. Recommend!

5 stars



Reuben with crispy shoestring fries.. amazing



Fish tacos.. recommend



Don W.
San Francisco, CA

86 friends

67 reviews

★★★★★ 1/20/2014

For a new restaurant, this place is great. Developing decor aside (the glass makes it look a bit empty from the outside), the food is the real star of this restaurant. The ever changing menu is a plus, as I would hate to ever get bored of a place like this.

I had the flat iron steak and got to try the spaghetti bolognese. The steak was cooked very well, but the pasta sauce is what wow'ed me. For a sauce I have had

countless times before, Aly's takes it to another level.

The service was also excellent. I've been trying to work on a Paleo diet and both the server and the chef worked together to give me an excellent meal. Greatly appreciated, and the food was amazing. Definitely a gem in Redwood City.



Dan B.
Redwood City, CA
Elite '14
442 friends
898 reviews

★★★★☆ 12/14/2013

1 check-in here

Listed in [Dinner Date in the Red-hood](#)

Aly's is the latest addition to the still growing Redwood City restaurant scene. Curiosity, and the staggeringly high yelp review (not unheard of for a new place), brought my wife and I here recently on a cold Saturday evening.

Food

-- Good to fantastic. For appetizers we tried the spicy lamb meatballs and the pancetta wrapped dates; both were phenomenal.

-- For dinner I really enjoyed my grilled lamb, which was cooked perfectly. My wife loved every bite of her grilled mahi-mahi. Servings were small, but average for a high end restaurant.

-- And for dessert we splurged on both the bread pudding and the espresso creme brûlée with lemon sugar. The bread pudding was decadent and delicious; As for the brûlée, I wasn't a big fan, but my wife loved it, saying it reminded her of drinking black coffee with lemon in France -- The beer list was quite good; I don't have to tell you how I feel about that, do I?

Service

-- Very friendly and accommodating, though the food arrival was slightly slow.

Atmosphere

-- Here's where Aly's fell flat for me. The lighting was way too bright and white; far too close to the cafeteria side of the spectrum (the other side being Hernando's Hideaway, I suppose); The place lacked warmth and coziness, with light blue walls and blonde wood rafters, it needed some warmer tones. And when I pay these kind of prices for delicately plated, fine cuisine, I expect the atmosphere to be swankier and cozier; you know...more special. Aly's felt far away from being a "happening spot."

After our dinner experience here, my wife and I had the distinct impression that Aly's was perhaps holding back on full commitment: For instance, the bar shelves were only half occupied with bottles; the walls had ZERO paintings or wall decor; decaf coffee was not available at dessert time, and the wine list was very short (so only a small cellar to maintain). The place just felt "unfinished." Is Aly's waiting to see how business does before sinking more money into the restaurant? Or did they just open too soon? Is the excellent food by itself enough to keep people coming back? Only time will tell. For myself, I'm more interested in trying other new places in town before returning here.

About 4 stars for us, but for now I will round down to offset all the new-place-overhype

p.s. The owner contacted me, and they happen to be working on a change in lighting and decor updates. I hope

to come back sooner!



Gado V.

Redwood City, CA

32 friends

2 reviews

★★★★★ 1/3/2014

5 stars! No doubt. Usually go to the city to find a restaurant that you can actually taste real food. Stop by to Aly's on Main and not only the service was great (thanks Tim and Erick) the food was just AMAZING. Organic, fresh, cage free and delicious... What else you can ask for. We needed a place like Aly's in Redwood city!

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



Aureliano C.

Redwood City, CA

Elite '14

92 friends

107 reviews

★★★★★ 1/8/2014

Love the food! Prices are \$15-\$20 an entrée, which is reasonable.

Warm friendly servers and owners are welcoming and pleasant.

Great beers and wines.

Want a nice classy pasta or organic grass fed beef dinner then I highly recommend dining here.

Pasta's made on sight.

We walk to downtown so parking's not an issue. If the timing's right you might find a spot right on Main st.

Welcome to the neighborhood.



Margarita B.

San Francisco, CA

10 friends

45 reviews

★★★★☆ 3/2/2014

When this restaurant fails it will not be because of the food which is quite good but because of the abhorrent service.

I came in with my boyfriend and his parents a few minutes before our 7.30 reservation. I do not know but maybe because I usually go to SF restaurants I was shocked when the hostess instead of smiling at us, directing us to the bar or offering a drink, expressed displeasure with her expression and tone of voice, "Your table is not ready

yet". Without a smile or nod she took off to the back of the house. We were left to fend for ourselves. There is no sitting or waiting area. Every bar-stool was busy and were just standing by the door as people were coming in and out.

I was hoping that the wait staff would do a little better but alas, Gordon Ramsey did not tutor them in finer points of customer service. Our waitress recited specials in the most confusing and halting way. The bread was not brought out right away and every time the waitress or busboy approached our table it happened at the worse point and interrupted our conversation. When we ran out of bread, no more was offered. My and my BF's appetizers were brought in eventually, but than another 10 minutes passed before his parents received theirs. There is nothing more uncomfortable in the restaurant setting than to have one's food in front oneself while the others are wanting for what seemed like forever.

The decor needs something more because right now it feel cavernous, noisy, and forgettable.

Thankfully the food was nothing like the service. While not super imaginative, every dish was executed with precision. Every plate was a perfect presentation of old standbys. Redwood city was lacking that kind of restaurant. The chef uses local, organic and artizanal ingredients and everything taste very fresh and clean. I loved the distinct flavors and measured seasoning.

The dates and bacon appetizer were served with perfectly cooked beet and raw watercress. Duck galantine had good texture and flavor. My crab-cakes had golden crust on the outside and the well seasoned inside melted away. I loved the delicate cauliflower puree and seaweed salad. Although, the salad can use a little bit less salt and tiny bit more of acid.

The grass fed burger was prepared medium rare but the bun fell apart. The flavor of the bun was good. The thin french fries were outstanding. they were thin, crispy, salty and golden brown.

We split chocolate pot de cream and it does not stand out in my memory.

I hope Aly's retools its service and decor because the food is good and it is nice to have a place like this in Redwood City.



Tami S.
San Mateo, CA
Elite '14

95 friends
323 reviews

★★★★★ 12/6/2013

1 check-in here

Aly's on Main -- thanks for making my night out with good friends so fun and memorable!

Started with the reservation process. They returned my call promptly -- and I even got a second call the night of, ensuring me that I did indeed have a spot at their restaurant.

Next up the service. Everyone at Aly's made me feel special for choosing their restaurant - and they made my friends happy, too. A very warm and inviting staff, they are, to a person.

And of course, the food! Everything sounded good... even

the spaghetti carbonara, which normally doesn't grab me. I did want beef, though, and initially leaned towards the steak frites. However, on hearing that they made their own pasta, I went with the fettucini bolognese. And it was a good call! Loved how the pasta and meat were thoroughly integrated. I also tried a bit of my friends' fish (mahi mahi) and porcini ravioli. The fish was wonderful and I did enjoy the ravioli (despite my general lack o' love for mushrooms).

Must also mention the salads -- bright greens, fresh fruit (pomegranate and persimmon in one, sweet little tomatoes in the other). A nice hit of creamy, tart cheese, and a light but flavorful dressing. Probably not substantial enough as a standalone dinner, but definitely worthwhile.

For dessert we shared the Crème brûlée (nice hit of espresso) and the chocolate pot de creme (with cherries at the bottom)! Rich and sweet, and great to share a couple.

Beverage list is nice but growing. Mexican sodas, wine, craft beers, sangria.

NB looks like they switch up the checkin offers. Mine was a BOGO sangria.

All in all it was a great experience and id love to return sometime. So thanks again, Aly's on Main, for a wonderful time!!



Scott F.
Mountain View, CA
110 friends
681 reviews

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 11/16/2013

1 check-in here

Check in to Yelp to get a free appetizer (if you need WiFi go down a few storefronts to Martins West).

The chocolate pot de creme is worth the calories:

yelp.com/biz_photos/alys...

They use Callebaut chocoate. It's light and super-silky, but with a slightly gritty texture (like a praline) that really amps up the richness. Great complexity. It's somewhere between milk chocolate and dark chocolate; I'd prefer more of the dark/bittersweet, but it's still great. There is a layer of cherries on the bottom, which works well (normally I hate cherries mixed with chocolate).

I don't recommend the spaghetti alla carbonara:

yelp.com/biz_photos/alys...

The pasta is a thinner version of linguini, and it's too mushy / overcooked. The sauce could use more flavor (more garlic/onions?). And the pancetta is not crave-worthy. Also, they really load it up with black pepper, to the point where it made my mouth numb. It's not as good as the version down the street at Donato Enoteca, despite the fact that Donato curdled the sauce the last time I had it there.

The front part of the restaurant is very drafty, even when the door is closed; get a table in the rear.



chocolate pot de creme.



carbonara.



Ryan T.
Redwood City, CA
Elite '14
58 friends
139 reviews

★★★★★ 11/16/2013

It's so nice to see a restaurant that offers grass fed beef, organic ingredients, and also offers gluten free beer! If you eat a paleo or gluten free diet, you should definitely check it out.

For starters I had an Omission pale ale (gluten free but still tastes like a real pale ale) and the spicy lamb meatballs. The meatballs were delicious, although they're a little smaller than I was expecting. I followed it up with the bay kale salad, which was outstanding. I don't really love the taste of kale and usually eat it just for the health benefits, but in this salad you really taste the blue cheese and sweet apple and cranberries. It's a good size, too. Finally I had the grass fed burger as my main course, with a lettuce wrap. The burger was slightly overlooked, but I don't expect perfection on opening weekend, and the fact that it's grass fed makes up for it.



Zin M.
Redwood City, CA
Elite '14
8 friends
106 reviews

★★★★☆ 3/16/2014

The good news is that there are plenty of great reviews. This is based on my experience the night we dined there.... The place was full and we went in with reservations (recommended). I couldn't make out the restaurant, the spacing of the tables felt off. It was too bright to be romantic and not bright enough to be well lit. Anyway, the menu is very small and I'd say pricey for the weird portions. We paid \$10 for 3 stuffed dates-we both almost had to hold back the chuckle when they put it on our table! And, before you judge me, they were not those big juicy dates. Ok, moving on... We ordered the lamb meatballs and again, it was super small. Two medium sized meatballs would have been better than what we were served. Also, it tasted too gamey, I think maybe because it was room temperature. We were very close to sending it back but just left it alone. They nailed the sauce though... Entrees were decent. I had the steak and it was prepared well. Overall a good spot, maybe I'll be back if they switch up the menu from "all over the place" and sort out the "meh" ambiance.



Comment from Alison L. of Aly's on Main
Business Owner

3/23/2014 • Thanks for taking the time to review us, Zin. We're disappointed to hear you felt your experience...

[Read more](#)



Andrea A.
San Francisco, CA
113 friends
23 reviews

★★★★☆ 3/17/2014

1 check-in here

Not knowing the restaurants in Redwood City, my friend and I ended up roaming Main Street and evaluating what we saw. "Too small." "Too loud." "Juuuust right!" like a pair

of Goldilocks (hawt Goldilocks hehehe) Ally's on Main looks rather unassuming at first sight but in the end we felt like we had a gourmet experience! The kale salad was delicious and the portion was big enough to share. I had to get the bone marrow, and I'm glad I did! Num numnum....I also had the gnocchi with lamb which was super tasty. My friend really liked her dates with bacon, as well as the halibut though she said the halibut wasn't the star of the show. The Zinfandel I got really helped complete the meal. Everything is seasonal, sustainable, local, etc etc which was bonus. Another bonus: cute waiter! And he did deliver attentive and friendly service as well. I feel like I got every penny's worth for taste, service, and conscientiousness. I definitely recommend Aly's on Main.


Comment from Alison L. of Aly's on Main

Business Owner

3/25/2014 • Thank you, Andrea, for your glowing review! We're so glad you and your friend wandered in to our...

[Read more](#)

Stephanie R.

Berkeley, CA

112 friends

51 reviews



11/22/2013

1 check-in here

This place just opened and they are doing a great job. The server was patient at explaining all the intricacies of the food and super friendly. It's cute and small, so extremely personal. The portions are a little small, but full of tastiness and extremely well cooked. And if you care, super organic and healthy.

Lamb meatballs: free with a checkin from yelp. :) Probably a promotion for discovery since they just opened. This thing was the best thing I had there! Pomegranate sauce and Greek yogurt makes for a nice combination of sweet and sour.

Little Gem Salad: butter lettuce with pomegranate, persimmon and vinaigrette. I already love pomegranate, and I have never had persimmons so I found a new fruit!

Spaghetti alla carbonara: light white sauce with bacon! How could you go wrong with bacon!? So tasty.

Beef cheeks: probably the most tender meat/beef I have ever had. And despite not liking brussel sprouts because they are usually overcooked, they were delicious and cooked to perfection.

Parting gift: raisin cookies with cinnamon and cherry. Not too much sugar, and a nice little way to bid farewell to their restaurant.

Would recommend! Hope they do well :)


Michelle T.

San Carlos, CA

20 friends

9 reviews



2/6/2014

Went here with four friends for dinner. We all left raving about this restaurant. We dined later in the evening so it wasn't too crowded and we had a great seat near the kitchen. We were able to converse with the owner/chef who described each meal in depth. We couldn't wait to get our meals! We started with the sangria which was so delicious. We shared two salads and each got an entrée. I ordered the burger, it was fabulous, they ground their grass

fed beef in house every day! We finished our meal with the bread pudding. I can't wait to go back to Aly's!!



Patricia P.
Walnut Creek, CA
3 friends
2 reviews

☆☆☆☆ 2/8/2014

Don't show up late! We showed up at 9pm and they were out of the \$25 burgers, gnocchi and Yukon potatoes. So, we ordered the steak and it was terribly fatty and tough. Had to send back three steaks. When I asked for the spaghetti bolognese as a replacement they were out of the regular spaghetti and had to serve spinach linguine. Had to get a corn dog next door for our daughter. No kids menu and no burgers. Kale salad and mussels were great.



Rob R.
San Carlos, CA
81 friends
67 reviews

★★★★★ 11/14/2013

1 check-in here

Wow! Great food at an extremely reasonable price. I came here with my boss for lunch. I had the porcini ravioli (with a drizzle of truffle oil) and my boss had the grass fed burger. Both were excellent. But the best was amuse bouche of the lamb meatball with pomegranate sauce with tzatziki and a sprinkling of pistachio. I'm not a fan of lamb but I'll be back for dinner (it's only on the dinner menu). We finished with the chocolate pot du creme that had a surprise at the bottom.

It's a great place but it's not on a busy street. I hope they do well.



R S.
Redwood City, CA
1 friend
8 reviews

★★★★☆ 2/13/2014

Really enjoy having a restaurant in Redwood City that serves organic and locally produced food. I enjoyed the relaxed & friendly atmosphere. Neil our server was very knowledgeable about all the items on the menu & explained how they butcher their own meat, make their own sangria, pickles, ketchup, etc. and was nice without being over-bearing. I had the tacos for lunch and my friend had a hamburger. We both agreed the food was delicious. The homemade sangria was fantastic as was the house lemonade. I can't wait to come back and experience the dinner menu. I liked that the TV was OFF!



Dominique N.
Menlo Park, CA
61 friends
178 reviews

★★★★★ 1/23/2014

Lovely new spot on a quieter block of downtown redwood city. (A few blocks from the movie theater and train station). Moderate prices for well cooked local and organic food. The Cobb salad is my favorite - super fresh. Nice folks and cheering for them to succeed!



Allison D.

☆☆☆☆ 3/17/2014

**Menlo Park, CA**

0 friends

11 reviews

Unfortunately our experience did not match the other glowing reviews. We went at 6.30 on a sat night. No tables available, but got the last 2 seats available at the bar. We were fine with that and ordered appetizers since we wanted to make a 7.30 movie. We had the meatballs - they tasted good, not great and they were barely warm. Only 3 fairly small meatballs for \$9. The prosciutto-wrapped figs were good but again, lukewarm and only 2 for \$9. The kale salad was great - was my favorite of what we had. The ambiance and service were odd. Despite being quite full, the restaurant felt kind of quiet and somber... The decor is a rather bare, and the lighting seemed too bright and fluorescent. Had to ask for bread. The burger on the menu on the evening that we were there was \$25... not sure how it differed from the \$14 burger on the online menu.

**Cheryl B.****San Mateo, CA**

0 friends

3 reviews

2/10/2014

Aly's on Main was a wonderful place for a date night!

We had not made a reservation, and showed up around 5:45pm on a Friday night. At first the hostess said they were completely booked until 8:00, but as soon as we said "ok, we'll try another night" she suddenly had a cancellation. That was a little odd, especially since by the time we left (around 7:30) there were still a number of empty tables.

The food was amazing! I had the lamb rib chops, and my husband had the spaghetti bolognese. Both were delicious. We finished with the brioche bread pudding, which was a little small for two people (we're used to sharing desserts at restaurants) but really perfectly satisfying.

Our waiter was great! Very personable and professional. The woman who was keeping everyone's water full never let my glass empty until we were ready to leave.

We will definitely be back, though next time with a reservation.

**Ruth J.****Corte Madera, CA**

0 friends

2 reviews

3/16/2014

After reading Aly's reviewed in SF Chron, we decided to give it a try with friends who live on the Peninsula. What a find! We began with three appetizers - the bone marrow, dates, and carrots. Each was beautifully presented and delicious. Our entrees were also terrific: steak, duck, lamb, and the halibut. Again each was beautifully presented and great tasting. The service was excellent, too. This is a wonderful addition to dining on the Peninsula. I hope this new restaurant has a long and prosperous life.

**Comment from Alison L. of Aly's on Main**

Business Owner

3/26/2014 • Thank you, Ruth, for wishing us well! We're very happy to be here, and are so glad you found us....

[Read more](#)**Olivia B.****Foster City, CA**

2 friends

3/7/2014

My fiance and I decided to try a new restaurant with great

9 reviews

Yelp reviews, so we ended up at Aly's. We were pleasantly surprised by the great choices on the menu, including Gluten Free Beer!

We started with the pork belly appetizer and were so disappointed, we couldn't even finish it! The pork belly was burned and had the texture of leather. The waitress never once asked how it was, even after seeing we didn't finish the small appetizer.

My fiancé had the gnocchi and it was amazing! I ordered the kale salad with chicken and made it very clear that I am highly allergic to almonds. I ate my entire salad, bc it was great, but after getting to the bottom of the bowl I realized there were 5 slivers of almonds. I was furious to say the least, told our waitress who was very apologetic. Our waitress expressed the concern to the head chef and he comped my one beer. I am obviously very disappointed with what happened, but for the chef to not even come out himself and apologize shows the character of the kitchen. Sad, because we were looking forward to returning and trying other items, but without any attention to detail, we will not be returning or recommending this restaurant to anyone!



Comment from Alison L. of Aly's on Main

Business Owner

3/25/2014 • We're sorry that we weren't able to take better care of you during your visit, Olivia. We take...

[Read more](#)



Alicia T.

Redwood City, CA

0 friends

4 reviews



1/31/2014

My husband and I enjoyed a late dinner here on a Friday night a few weeks ago. The service was great, very personable and our server took the time to tell us about the vision of Aly's. The menu is not extensive, but the selections are varied enough to please everyone.

The chef/owner, Michael, sent out an appetizer, the Medjool Dates, for us to try. These were so tasty and just the right combination of salty and sweet. We ordered the kale salad to share. It was a perfect amount and a delicious start to our meal. My husband chose the Fettuccine Alla Bolognese and I had the Halibut. Both were fantastic. You can definitely taste the difference that it makes by using fresh, organic and sustainable ingredients. The portions are not large, nor are they tiny, they really are just the right size.

We were completely full after our entrees, but Michael sent out creme brulee with lemon sugar for us to share. Again, delicious. Somehow, we managed to finish it all with no problem. At this point, we were the only customers left in the restaurant. Michael then came to our table with glasses of port for each of us. We sat and talked with him for about 30 minutes about how Aly's on Main came to be. We enjoyed our conversation with him as his passion for bringing his dream to fruition is clearly evident.

We've since told many friends about Aly's and we'll definitely be back again soon!

Best of Yelp Redwood City – American (New)



Flea Street
★★★★☆ 356 reviews



John Bentley's
★★★★☆ 261 reviews



Godfather's Burger Lounge
★★★★☆ 773 reviews



The Mountain House Restaurant
★★★★☆ 286 reviews



LYFE Kitchen
★★★★☆ 753 reviews

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