

2002 North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society
UCLA
Los Angeles, California
June 20 -24

Members of the Econometric Society and Guests,

Welcome to UCLA and Los Angeles. While the Program Committee has guaranteed that your visit will be professionally rewarding, my intention here is to help you enjoy your hours outside of the formal sessions. You are in one of the greatest cities of the world—take advantage of it!

While breakfast and lunch are served here in the lower level of Covel Commons, you are on your own for dinner on all evenings except Sunday, when we will host a conference dinner. The UCLA Sunset Village Conference Center, although an excellent meeting facility, is a bit isolated—you can walk to Westwood Village, but that's about it.

To provide you an opportunity to see some of the town, we have arranged for two excursions. On Friday evening, buses will take you to the 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica. The downtown Santa Monica area, including the famous Santa Monica Pier, is one of the few urban areas of Southern California that you can explore on foot. There are many first rate restaurants, bars, and plenty of nightlife.

On Saturday night, we offer an excursion to the Getty Center. The Getty Center offers impressive architecture, a breathtaking view, and I understand that there is some art there as well. If you would like to eat dinner at the Getty Center, there are two options. A fine dining restaurant serves dinner until 8:30 p.m. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 310-440-7300. The Getty also has a cafeteria-style Cafe that offers a nice selection of grilled dishes, soups, salads, and sandwiches, among other things. The Cafe does not require reservations and is also open until 8:30.

As an alternative to eating at the Getty, you can explore some of the attached dining suggestions. I asked my colleagues to offer suggestions, and they came up with many excellent choices. I have also included some recommendations in the vicinity of the 3rd Street Promenade that should be useful for Friday evening.

Enjoy the conference. And, don't forget to enjoy the city as well.

*Gary Hansen
Chair of Local Organization*

Restaurant Recommendations

Third Street Promenade

The following is a list of all restaurants from the Zagat Survey that scored 22 or higher in the food quality category and are walking distance from the Promenade. The descriptions are copied from Zagat. For what it is worth, my favorites on this list are Jiraffe and La Serenata de Garibaldi.

You may also want to visit the many bars that are located on and around the Promenade. These include a blues bar (Harvelle's, 1431 Fourth Street), a vodka bar (Voda 1449 Second Street), several tequila bars (e.g. Rebecca's, Broadway and Ocean), and a British pub (Ye Olde King's Head, 116 Santa Monica Blvd.). This is just a few of the many options available. Remember, there is no need to catch the last bus—you can always take a taxi.

Border Grill

Santa Monica

1445 Fourth St. (bet. Broadway & Santa Monica Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-2308 (310) 451-1655
(Price: inexpensive)

The Two Hot Tamales (Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken) flex their foodie muscles at this "colorful", "avant-garde" Mexican in Santa Monica that's "a lot of fun" (especially "if you know sign language", as it can get "loud"); regulars routinely "dream about the food" and drinks, including "the best" margaritas and guacamole, along with "fish Veracruz to die for", but since it draws everyone from "families to tequila drinkers", "go at odd hours, when there are fewer people."

Capo

Santa Monica

1810 Ocean Ave. (Pico Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-3216 (310) 394-5550
(Price: very expensive)

Chef Bruce Marder "hits the ball out of the park" at this "heavily atmospheric", "outrageously expensive" beach-adjacent Santa Monica Italian known for its "use of seasonal produce", much of which comes from his own garden (he tore out his tennis court to make room for more tomato plants); the "dreamy food" will have you "loosening your belt" and marveling at the "quality", which is why some devotees say damn the cost - "even at these prices, I'll go again and again."

IVY AT THE SHORE

Santa Monica

1541 Ocean Ave. (Colorado Ave.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-2100 (310) 393-3113
(Price: expensive)

The Ivy heads for the beach in Santa Monica and gets a lot more mellow during the journey, turning into a "wonderful experience of [New American] food and romance" that's nearly "as good as the other", with the same grilled veggie salad and meat loaf and "guaranteed celeb sightings" ("I dined next to Calista Flockhart!").

JIRAFFE

Santa Monica

502 Santa Monica Blvd. (5th St.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-2410 (310) 917-6671

(Price: expensive)

"Grand dining without the snobbery" is what awaits at this "world-class" Californian "taste treat" in Santa Monica that's "better than ever"; the "intimate, warm" surroundings set the stage for "brilliant" chef Raphael Lunetta's "beautifully presented", "exceptional" "creations" with "exciting flavors"; "expect flawless everything", including "supreme" service that's as "stylish as the food."

La Serenata de Garibaldi

Santa Monica, Boyle Heights

1416 Fourth St. (bet. Broadway & Santa Monica Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-2309 (310) 656-7017

1842 E. First St. (bet. Boyle & State Sts.) Boyle Heights, CA, 90033-3411 (323) 265-2887

(Price: inexpensive)

"Fabulous fish" drizzled with the "best sauces" catapult these Mexican "gems" to "phenom" status with legions of loyalists (who generally prefer the refurbished Boyle Heights branch to the Santa Monica sibling); even though "seafood's the star", margaritas and empanadas also elicit olés, making it easy to overlook the "spotty service."

Lavande

Santa Monica

1700 Ocean Ave. (bet. Colorado Ave. & Pico Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-3233 (310) 576-3180

(Price: expensive)

"Great for sunset dining overlooking the majestic Pacific", this Mediterranean also boasts a "beautiful" interior; surveyors split on the food, however, with adherents applauding "ambitious", "excellent" fare and opponents opining the "pricy" dishes are "disappointing."

The Lobster

Santa Monica

1602 Ocean Ave. (Santa Monica Pier) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-3212 (310) 458-9294

(Price: expensive)

"It feels like New England" with a "great view of the Pacific" and the "Santa Monica pier" at this "beautifully remodeled" 1923 landmark with outdoor dining; chef Allyson Thurber thrills with her "great chowder", "awesome crab Louis", "terrific lobster" and other "marvelously prepared seafood"; though it can get "noisy" and it's certainly "pricy", devotees declare it an "instant classic."

MICHAEL'S

Santa Monica

1147 Third St. (Wilshire Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90403-5012 (310) 451-0843

(Price: very expensive)

"Still excellent" after all these years, this groundbreaking New American (with Cal-French undertones) has become an "old friend" whose "amazingly romantic", "lush" "green" patio ("the prettiest garden spot of all") continues to be "a must" place to return to for "consistently" "inventive cuisine" that's "worth every dollar"; moreover, note voters, owner Michael McCarty "sincerely communicates the message that your presence is appreciated."

Ocean Ave. Seafood

Santa Monica

1401 Ocean Ave. (Santa Monica Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-2106 (310) 394-5669

(Price: moderate)

"Fish must feel honored to be served here" say admirers of this "lovely" Santa Monica spot, one of the "best of the King's Seafood chain" that helped bring the concept of haute seafood to town; its "amazing menu" of "marine delights" changes frequently, but the preparations are always "interesting" and it features an "excellent" "oyster bar happy hour - need we say more?"; P.S. "sit on the piano and enjoy the ocean view."

Oceanfront

Santa Monica

1910 Ocean Front Walk (Pico Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90405-1014 (310) 581-7714

(Price: expensive)

"Dazzle a date" with the "unbeatable" view of "sand and sea" at this "romantic" Californian housed in Santa Monica's "beautiful" Casa del Mar hotel, recently restored to its "neat 1920s" grandeur; with an "impressive" menu, wine list and service, along with prime "people-watching that rivals the sunset", this is "top-notch from start to finish."

One Pico

Santa Monica

1 Pico Blvd. (Ocean Ave.) Santa Monica, CA, 90405-1062 (310) 587-1717

(Price: expensive)

"A real treat by the sea", this "wonderful escape" set in Santa Monica's Shutters on the Beach Hotel is a "perfect" place to "watch the sunset" while dining on "creative" New American dishes; it's a "favorite" among customers who coo it's a "romantic date place for us married folk" and one of "the best places to take out-of-town guests" for the "ultimate California experience."

Pedals

Santa Monica

1 Pico Blvd. (Ocean Ave.) Santa Monica, CA, 90405-1062 (310) 587-1707

(Price: moderate)

The "fantastic location", in a "gorgeous hotel" with a "perfect view of the ocean", makes this Santa Monica Italian-American a "favorite" for a "great breakfast" or "lovely patio lunch" (they also serve dinner); by the way, the food happens to be "delicious" too.

Sushi Roku

Santa Monica, Pasadena, Third Street between Robertson and La Brea

8445 W. Third St. (La Cienega Blvd.) LA, CA, 90048-4124 (323) 655-6767

1401 Ocean Ave. (Santa Monica Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-2106 (310) 458-4771

33 Miller Alley (N. Fair Oaks Ave.) Pasadena, CA, 91103-3643 (626) 683-3000

(Price: moderate)

"Oh so hip", this fast-growing Japanese chain draws "agents, models" and other "young" "people-in-black" ("the crowd makes me feel old and ugly") for its "sleek", "stylish" setting, "wonderful sushi" and "high-quality" cooked items; in fact, the "pan-fried oysters in champagne sauce alone are worth the noise and crush of people."

Recommendations from the Locals

I asked my colleagues to recommend some restaurants for conference participants. Here is what they came up with.

Note: I apologize for forgetting to tell my colleagues that lunch would be provided at the Conference Center. Several of them offer lunch recommendations.

Sandra Black

My favorite lunch place in Westwood Village is:

Damon and Pythius; 1061 Broxton, 310-824-8777

Very tasty salads and sandwiches (fresh cooked turkey club is my favorite), huge portions, not expensive. A great lunch place.

I also recommend Stan's donuts at the corner of Weyburn and Broxton...voted #1 in America by Forbes.

Janet Currie

Here are some places that are good to go with little kids:

California Pizza Kitchen (esp. the one in Brentwood Gardens on 11677 San Vicente, which really caters to kids). You can sit on the patio, which is nice, or sit inside by the window if your kid likes to look at cars.

Taiko (in the same spot) which is a noodle place, but also has good sushi, and is full of kids if you eat early.

Ocean Ave. Seafood (1401 Ocean Ave. in Santa Monica, (310-394-5669). This is a nice place with very good seafood, but if you go at an off peak time (say 4 on a weekend) and sit on the patio, it is doable with little kids. (They do have crayons and a kids menu). Plus, kids can look at the fish in the aquariums, and you can all go for a walk and look at the ocean afterwards.

Sebastian Edwards

Recently Alejandra and I went to a fairly new "wine bistro" in Santa Monica (1205 Abbot Kinney Blvd, , 310-396-5353): it is called "Primitivo." Excellent wine list -- many by the glass -- and a very good selection of "tapas." Informal, young crowd from the film industry...

For traditional French, we recently went to Melisse (1104 Wilshire, 310-395-0881). It's been around for a while, but surprisingly we had not been there. Very good for that type of cuisine. Older crowd, good service. Expensive...

An old funky, informal favorite -- good for lunch --, is Bamboo (10835 Venice Blvd., 310-287-0668) Inexpensive, Caribbean-Mexican fusion. The salmon is a must. Also very good tomato-basil thin crust pizza. Wine list very limited. Bring your own...

Roger Farmer

1. The Royal Star on Wilshire (3001 Wilshire Blvd., 310-828-8812). An excellent Chinese seafood restaurant frequented by many ethnic Chinese. Cheap and very good value. Also excellent for Dim Sum on a Sunday.

2. Koo Koo Roo.(2002 Wilshire, 310-453-8767) and everywhere. Hollywood's answer to Kentucky Fried Chicken. Skinless marinated healthy chicken with veggies. Good for a fast lunch on the run.

3. Pradeeps. Relatively good Indian restaurant (recognizing that Indian is not LA's strongpoint). 1405 Montana, Santa Monica. (310) 395 6575

4. High end Italian

a. Pane & Vino. 8265 Beverly Boulevard.(323) 651-4600. Good high end Italian. Drive down to Melrose Avenue afterwards and walk along the strip.

b. I Cugini. 1501 Ocean Ave. at Broadway in Santa Monica. 310-451-4595. Large- can sit outside on the Terrace. Good for a walk along the ocean afterwards. Expensive but good food.

c. Toscana. 11633 San Vicente in Brentwood. 310-820-2448. Small, expensive but very good. Reservations a must.

d. Drago. 2628 Wilshire 310-828-1585. Sicilian- excellent food. (Try the bunny rabbit). small. Reservations a must.

Selo Imrohoroglu (USC) [Ed's Note: L.A. is a wonderful Sushi town (informed people have told me it is the best outside of Tokyo), and Selo knows as much about the sushi scene here as anyone.]

Here are the top places for sushi/sashimi

1. Matsuhisa (the best; very expensive; \$50-150 per person)
129 N. La Cienega Blvd. (Wilshire Blvd.)
Beverly Hills (310) 659-9639

2. Nobu Malibu (Nobu's other place after Matsuhisa; also very expensive)
3835 Crosscreek Rd. (PCH) Malibu (310) 317-9140

3. Mori Sushi (expensive; 40-120 per person)
11500 W. Pico Blvd. (Gateway Blvd.)
West LA (310) 479-3939

4. R-23 (expensive; \$40-120 per person; difficult to locate the restaurant!)
923 E. Third St. (bet. Alameda St. & Santa Fe Ave.) Downtown LA (213) 687-7178

5. Sasabune (\$40-100 per person)
On Sawtelle; a few blocks north of Hide

6. Hide Sushi (\$25-60 per person; cash)
2040 Sawtelle Blvd. (bet. Olympic & Santa Monica Blvds.)
West LA (310) 477-7242

7. Sushi Roku (\$40-100; nice bar and scenery)
8445 W. Third St. (La Cienega Blvd.) LA, CA, 90048-4124 (323) 655-6767 1401 Ocean Ave. (Santa Monica Blvd.) Santa Monica, CA, 90401-2106 (310) 458-4771

8. Sushi Masu
1911 Westwood Blvd. (bet. Olympic & Santa Monica Blvds.)
West LA (310) 446-4368

Phillip Leslie

My wife and I love all three of these places:

1. Bob Morris' at Paradise Cove. 28128 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu (310-457-2503)

Located in Malibu, it's about a 30min drive from UCLA, but mostly along the PCH (Pacific Coast Highway) so the journey is part of the fun. The restaurant is located right on the beach and you can sit outside if you like. Food is quite good (it's not a highly fancy restaurant, which is also part of the appeal) and prices are reasonable. Basic California-style cuisine. Great for breakfast, lunch or dinner. I frequently take visitors there.

2. Crustacean – 464 N. Bedford, Beverly Hills (310) 205-8990

Close to UCLA in Beverly Hills. I think it is the best Vietnamese restaurant in LA and probably one of the top 20 (if not 10) of all restaurants in LA. Has fish swimming in the floor. Need I say any more. I never knew how good crab could be till I went here -- get the crab if you go. Be sure to make a reservation. The only restaurant in LA that I know has a dress code, but this just means a shirt with a collar, shoes and no denim (I think). Can be pricey, but you get a great restaurant experience that makes it worth it.

3. Carlitos Gardel. 7963 Melrose Ave. (near Fairfax) (323) 655-0891

On Melrose. Italian-Argentinian steak house. Fantastic value for the great tender hunks of meat they serve. Very pleasant atmosphere. Not all that well known by people in LA. Good Argentine wine.

Lee Ohanian

Tanino – 1043 Westwood Blvd., 310-208-0444 "close, very good italian food, excellent wine list"

Sprazzo 1389 Westwood Blvd. 310-479-3337 "close, inexpensive, excellent pastas and gnocchi"

Jiraffe 502 Santa Monica Blvd. 310-917-6671 "excellent french/mediterranean food, excellent wine list, great for special occasion - expensive"

Border Grill 1445 Fourth St. Santa Monica, 310-451-1655 "Some of the best Mexican food in LA, moderate"

La Serenata di Garibaldi 1416 Fourth St. 310-656-7017 "Best Mexican Seafood in the City, excellent margaritas, moderate"

Lucques. 8474 Melrose Ave (near La Cienega), 323-655-6277 "Outstanding mediterranean food, great wine list and courtyard tables - expensive"

John Riley

Chinois-on-Main is one of my all time favorites. 2709 Main St. Santa Monica, 310-392-9025 Wolfgang Puck at his best. It is hard to get even an early reservation the same day but worth a try.

Ken Sokoloff

(all within fifteen minutes of UCLA by car)

Bistro 21 -- 846 N. La Cienega Blvd. 310-967-0021

This is my current favorite of several wonderful restaurants near UCLA with Japanese chefs producing creative variations on French cuisine. Despite being located in a mini-mall, this one is elegant, if simple, and great care is taken to make the dining experience special. The menu changes frequently, so it is hard to

recommend particular dishes. There are only about eight tables, so reservations are a must. Expect to pay \$40-50 per person with wine.

Bombay Café -- 12021 W. Pico Blvd. 310-473-3388

This is one of the favorites for workshop dinners among the economic historians at UCLA. There are many dishes that you don't see at other Indian restaurants, and even the conventional items have unusual preparations. If not already sated, try the desserts. It is a wonderful place, especially for a large group that appreciates good food. Reservations are recommended, and expect to pay \$20-25 per person with beer.

Zax – 11604 San Vicent Blvd. 310-571-3800

Offering excellent California cuisine in a warm dining room, Zax was featured in a recent Gourmet survey of restaurants in Los Angeles. It can be a bit noisy, and the wine list a bit pricey, but the food is superb. When you make your reservation (strongly recommended), ask to have Elizabeth as your waitress. Her recommendations are generally dead on. Expect to pay about \$50 per person with wine.

La Serenata Gourmet – 10924 W. Pico Blvd. 310-441-9667

This is a casual no-reservations spin-off of fancier restaurants owned by the same family. The Rodriguez family goes back decades in Los Angeles, and takes both politics (left wing) and food very seriously. Their first restaurant in East Los Angeles long served fantastic food for dirt cheap prices, but then was discovered by Gourmet magazine. Before long, Michelle Pfeiffer was having her birthday parties there. Prices rose and branches were opened. This branch has a more limited menu and modest décor. The specialities are exquisite sauces that you can mix and match with various seafood or meats. Though the fish is wonderful, my favorite is the mole on chicken. The Mexican shrimp cocktail is sort of a ceviche in a tomato-based soup, and is spectacular. Expect to pay about \$25 per person with beer, or \$30 with wine.

Figtree Café – on the Venice walkway, two blocks south of Rose Avenue.

For those who want the true (why would one want to live anywhere else) LA experience, breakfast at this café on Venice Beach is highly recommended. The food is excellent, the scenery divine, and the people watching...well, memorable. If you feel guilt setting in, there is an orthodox temple a few doors south.

Sweet Lady Jane -- 8360 Melrose Avenue 323-653-7145 – closed on Sunday

Had your fill of pretentious and tedious comments? Skip the last session of the day, leave the bitter aftertaste behind, and sample something sweet at this bakery/café. It has among the best pastries I have found in North America. There are only six tables, but at last count there were twenty-six varieties of chocolate cake. If you do want chocolate, however, my recommendation would be to keep it simple and go for the "Old Fashioned". If not, the Three-Berry Cake is a definite possibility.

Duncan Thomas

Melisse, 1104 Wilshire, 310-395-0881, Santa Monica

Best restaurant on the west side. Spectacular menu. Interesting, subtle and innovative. Pretty expensive but worth it. Definitely need a reservation (often hard to get so plan ahead).

Bombay Cafe, 12021 W.Pico Blvd. 310-473-3388

Good Indian food. You won't go there for the decor or the crowd -- but you'll be glad you went. Quite busy -- make a reservation.

William Zame

Jaipur, 10916 W. Pico Blvd. 310-470-4994 next to Westside Pavilion: excellent inexpensive Indian

Serenata, on Pico next to Westside Pavilion: excellent inexpensive gourmet Mexican

Border Grill, -Santa Monica: upscale interesting Mexican