

Noteworthy Additions, Changes and Closures through December 31, 2007

Key to Night+Day Symbols

Restaurants

Singles-friendly

- Communal table
- Food served at bar

(G) Gourmet destination

Venues followed by an * are those we recommend as both a restaurant and a destination bar.

Nightlife

Includes bars, clubs, and entertainment

- Cover or ticket charge (otherwise, entry is free)

Restaurants + Nightlife

Prime-time noise levels

- Quiet
- A buzz, but still conversational
- Loud

Key to Pricing

Hotels

Best deluxe room

€	€100-€199
€€	€200-€299
€€€	€300-€399
€€€€	€400 and up

Restaurants

Main course

€-	less than €10
€	€10-€19
€€	€20-€29
€€€	€30-€39
€€€€	€40 and up

Attractions

Entry or service

€-	less than €10
€	€10-€19
€€	€20-€29
€€€	€30-€39
€€€€	€40 and up

The Night+Day promise

Night+Day writers and editors use the same high standards in selecting and researching venues to be included in our Ins and Outs updates as we do for our books. Our local correspondents determine which new hot spots are the real deal and which are simply hype—just as you'd expect from Night+Day—to provide the kind of reliable information you need to make the best possible choices.

pulseguides.com

TOC

Classic Restaurants

Café Bohème	. . . . .	2
Katsourbos	. . . . .	3
Kuzina	. . . . .	3

Classic Nightlife

Booze	. . . . .	3
Cabaret Voltaire	. . . . .	3

Hip Restaurants

Dasein Coffee Art & Spirits	. . . . .	4
Fasoli	. . . . .	4
Hell's Kitchen	. . . . .	4
Nixon	. . . . .	4

Hip Nightlife

Circus	. . . . .	5
Passepartout	. . . . .	5
Underworld	. . . . .	5

Hip Attractions

Herakleidon Experience in Visual Arts	5
---------------------------------------	-----------	---

Downtown Restaurants

Rififi	6
--------	-----------	---

By-the-Water Hotels

Vouliagmeni Suites	6
--------------------	-----------	---

Closures

	6
--	-----------	---

Athens Central West Map

	7
--	-----------	---

Athens Central East Map

	8
--	-----------	---

Classic Athens Restaurants

Café Bohème • Kolonaki • Bar/Café/Restaurant

Romantic lighting and lace curtains beckon passers-by into this cozy retreat, warmed up by natural materials and a low-key, semi-rustic decor. Comfort food—like fried Norwegian cod with pureed potatoes and boiled greens—is served at either the small tables or in the two ample nooks with large wood tables and couch seating reserved for larger parties. The Greek-English ownership is reflected in the mix of Mediterranean standards like chickpeas in tomato sauce and more international flavors such as the baked apple dessert topped with vanilla

ice-cream and rose sauce. A bar stretches along one brick wall, serving up London bar cocktails, including champagne-based drinks like the Honeyberry Fizz and refreshing strawberry daiquiris. The crowd mostly includes well-heeled Athenians still in officewear or spruced up for dates. Live-music nights, including a funk band, may boost its rep as a bar. By day, it's a good spot to read the paper solo with a coffee and croissant, or for a discreet tête-à-tête. *Mon-Sat 8:30am-midnight.* € ☐ Omirou 36, 210 360 8018

Katsourbos • Pangrati • Cretan

If you can't make it to Crete, Katsourbos is the next best way to sample the island's delicious cuisine. Dishes are made with ingredients brought over from Crete, from snails to the rare wild greens known as stamnagathi. The tiny kitchen at the edge of the dining area injects a homey atmosphere, and the service is personal and friendly yet unobtrusive. Prepare to rub elbows—space is tight—but this adds to the genial air created by the chic, yet not faddist crowd. In warm weather, ask for one of the handful of tables on the pavement, but book ahead—indoor or out, seating is limited, especially on Saturdays when tables start filling up just after midday. This is a good meal alternative to Kolonaki after visits to the Benaki or Cycladic museums. *Daily noon-1am.* € ☐ Amynta 2, 210 346 2077

Kuzina • Thisio • Mediterranean

Most people come to Kuzina for the view, but return for the food. If you're in a romantic mood, head for the rooftop bar for a mesmerizing view of the Parthenon and a romantic dinner under the stars. If you're in a more social frame of mind, then stake out a table on the pavement for some prime people-watching: there's a steady stream of activity from around noon until well past midnight. Located in a beautifully renovated neoclassical home a short distance from the Monastiraki and Thisio stations, Kuzina fuses old Athens with modern Greece. Clean lines and white surfaces create the perfect backdrop for chef Aris Tsanaklidis's imaginative Mediterranean menu that borrows equally from traditional Greek dishes and nouvelle cuisine. The rooftop bar is sometimes reserved for private parties, so if you have your heart set on that view, call ahead to check. *Daily noon-midnight or later.* €€ ☐ Adrianou 9, 210 324 0133

Classic Athens Nightlife

Booze • Downtown • Bar

Vodka with fresh lemon juice is the specialty in this bar that's housed in a 19th-century building surrounded by linen shops. It feels like a successful party most weekend nights, as crowds squeeze down from the upstairs bar to the newer high-ceilinged gallery below. The gallery room features its own bar and a massive chandelier made of preserved "diples" (dough cookies). The year-round establishment is the site for ongoing exhibits and shows. By day, patrons dip in to have a coffee and set up their laptops on its massive wood table. ☐ *Daily 10am-midnight.* Kolokotroni 57, 210 324 0944, boozecooperativa.com

Cabaret Voltaire • Metaxourgio • Dance Club

Cabaret Voltaire is a party waiting to happen. Set in a renovated former carpenter's workshop in an old working-class neighborhood, this bar features live jazz and Latin bands on Sundays and a torch singer of sorts on Tuesdays. But during the rest of the week, it's like one massive night at the improv thanks to the

actors from nearby theaters who come here to kick back after the show. Brightly painted walls and funky furnishings add to the arty atmosphere. Nibble on seafood or a salad from the limited menu as you keep an eye on the piano where spontaneous jam sessions start—and sometimes last until closing. *Daily 8:30pm-2am.* ☐ Marathonos 30, 210 522 7046

Hip & Cool Athens Restaurants

Dasein Coffee Art & Spirits • Exarchia • Café/Bar

It's not just the usual smoke, but also ideas and art that float around this high-ceilinged hangout with a rigorous weekly schedule of philosophy, literature, free films, widescreen sports, music, and art. Beyond the huge wooden swinging-door entrance, two enormous black-and-white, celebrity-filled photo collages by local graffiti artists Carpe Diem set a creative tone. Arty and mainstream clientele chat at the bar, at street-side window tables, and on big black couches while nursing mochachinos, straight scotch, or imported beer. Food is limited to the likes of simple toasted sandwiches and stark nachos, but coffee is served till late. Things get hopping on weekends after 10pm. *Daily 11am-1am.* €– ☐ Solomou 12, Exarchia Square, 210 384 1857, dasein.gr

Fasoli • Exarchia • Restaurant/Taverna

Though the food and prices are taverna-like, it's the place's quirky sense of style—with lamps made of clothespins and disco tunes pumping—that makes this eatery so hip. The new branch's glass-walled corner location, showcasing an open kitchen and split-level interior, lights up the block. The 30ish-to-40ish crowd often fill tables for lunch or dinner (after 8:30pm) to enjoy the red house wine, a wide array of salads, and light, inspired Greek classics, including eggplant or fava bean dip. The chef applies special touches to some dishes, like a drizzling of balsamic vinegar sauce here or a shaving of parmesan cheese there. Top off the meal with a light panacotta, drenched in your choice of sauce. *Mon-Sat 1:30pm-12:30am.* € ☐ Ippokratous and Navarinou Sts. (also a branch at 54 Emmanuel Benaki St.), 210 360 3626

Hell's Kitchen • Kotzia Square • Cafe

The flames periodically flare as the chef prepares dishes in the open kitchen, but Athenians find this small corner hangout heavenly. Located behind Athens' Town Hall, this minimalist joint has big windows and a colorful mural. It is one of the few places in town serving breakfast, with six omelets available till 6pm. By night, a DJ spins, and you can have a drink (including inspired mojitos), a meal of salads, sandwiches, or heartier fare from the New York-inspired menu, or munch on a salad buffet around schoolroom-like tables. *Times vary; call ahead to make sure it will be open.* € ☐ Agisilaou 6B, 210 346 2077

Nixon • Psirri • International

Nixon is one of those places known only to Athens insiders, a luxurious lounge-bar where media-weary celebrities go to kick back. Dark, primary colors and leather, wood, and brass accents create an elegant, somewhat unusual, complement to the burger-driven menu and eclectic playlist. Movie screenings, private and public, add to the clubhouse atmosphere that has made it popular among the city's traditional elite 20-somethings who meet here for cocktails, gossip, and occasionally a screening. *Times vary; call ahead to make sure it will be open.* €€ ☐ Agisilaou 6B, 210 346 2077

Hip & Cool Athens Nightlife

Circus • Exarchia • Cafe

There aren't any jugglers or clowns, only young urban professionals vying for barstools at this small but airy two-floor bar located in a student neighborhood. By day, there is coffee, tea, and food (mainly salads and pasta). By night, the bartenders shake up drinks, including the "Flying Circus" cocktail, composed of vodka and melon, strawberry, cranberry, and pineapple juices. But it's not so much the drinks that draw the crowds as it is the warm lighting, the R&B music, and the fact that it's become a neighborhood hub. *Mon-Fri 9am-midnight, Sat 10am-midnight, Sun noon-midnight.* ☹️ Navarinou 11, 210 361 5255

Passepartout • Kolonaki • Cafe

From late morning to past midnight, a steady stream of ultra-image-conscious patrons stops in to Passepartout for a quick cup of coffee or a drink on their way somewhere else. Oddly enough, this role as an in-between place not only works but has established this spot as an official meeting point. If you're into crowd-watching, stake your place at the lacquer-topped bar or in one of the leather-backed banquette-style couches on the perimeter, order your favorite tippie, and enjoy watching the social scene unfold before you. You can nosh on café food during the day and nibble on bar food at night as you raise your martini glass to the 20-something blonde across the room. *Daily 10:30am-1am.* ☹️ Skoufa 47-49, 210 364 5546

Underworld • Downtown • Dance Club

Take a walk on the wild side of the Athens club scene as you descend into the dark—literally, barely lit—interiors of Underworld, one of the season's hottest late-night clubs. The theme here is the seven deadly sins, many of which are being played out before your eyes. The combination of goth aura and deafening industrial rock suggests a rough edge, but the mixed gay and straight crowd is really just indulging in good, clean fun. Check local listings for live performances—although some are unscheduled. And don't bother arriving before 1am. *10pm-2am and later.* ☹️ Gambetta 5, 210 384 0965

Hip & Cool Athens Attractions

Apivita Shop and Polis Spa • Kolonaki • Shop/Spa

Stop by the Apivita boutique in Kolonaki to stock up on your favorite natural personal-care products, from quick-acting face, hair, and body masks from the Express range to light fragrances for women and men. Consultants are on hand to custom-blend skin-care products and create a regimen just for you. Feeling drained from all the late nights? Try one of the signature facials or a massage in the adjoining Polis Spa. Apivita's Propoline products have propolis, a substance collected by honeybees, as its active ingredient, combined with herb extracts and other natural ingredients. Available in 16 countries, this wondrous line has a loyal following around the world. After a visit here, you'll know why. *Solonos 26, 210 364 0560, apivita.com*

Herakleidon Experience in Visual Arts • Thisio • Art Museum

Exposed brick walls and wrought-iron railings aren't the sort of look you'd expect of a private museum specializing in modern art, but Herakleidon Experience in

Visual Arts pulls it off beautifully. Located in the heart of the Thisseio bar district and within a stone's throw of the Acropolis and Ancient Agora, this new museum's exhibits by artists like Victor Vasarely and M.C. Escher are the perfect antidote to an antiquities overdose. In addition to the permanent exhibit, you'll find rotating temporary exhibits highlighting the works of both Greek and foreign artists. Check the website ahead of time to find out about musical performances, seminars, and lectures. Pick up some unusual souvenirs from the gift shop on the way out. *Tue-Sat 1-9pm, Sun 11am-7pm.* €- *Herakleidon 16, 210 346 1981, herakleidon-art.gr*

Downtown Athens Restaurants

Rififi • Exarchia • Greek

Rififi opens for lunch at noon, but the crowd of regulars—writers, musicians, students, and other denizens of this vibrant downtown neighborhood—doesn't really start packing the tables until well after 3pm. Follow their lead and nosh on deep-fried puffs of wild greens or favas paired with chopped onions and capers while sipping chilled raki, then linger over grilled squid or a chickpea stew as lunch stretches into the early part of the dinner hour. The menu is pure Greek taverna fare with ingenious touches that create new flavors while remaining true to the roots of traditional Greek cuisine. The décor gets the same treatment, with wooden taverna tables painted a cheery pastel green. This is the perfect place to relax after a visit to the National Archaeological Museum nearby. On Saturdays, claim your table early as it gets extra crowded with Greeks who settle in after shopping at Exarchia's open-air produce market. *Daily noon-1am.* ☹️ Emmanuil Benaki 69, 210 330 0237

By-the-Water Athens Hotels

Vouliagmeni Suites • Vouliagmeni • Modern (36 rms)

This mid-sized all-suites hotel is perfect for travelers who want to enjoy both the vibrant pace of city life and the peaceful seclusion of a seaside resort. Vouliagmeni, a swank seaside suburb, is less than a half-hour's drive from downtown and just ten minutes from Glyfada, with its lively shopping, cafés, and club scene. Spacious guest rooms are decorated in a whimsical, artsy array of colors, patterns, and textures that appeal to the trendy 30- and 40-something Greek couples who flock here for romantic weekends. By day, the action is at the rooftop pool bar. Order a cocktail and soak up the view of the bay from the whirlpool—a great way to relax after a day of sight-seeing and before a night on the town. Ask for one of the rooms on the upper floors, which offer better views. €€ *Panos 8, 210 896 4901, classicalhotels.com*

Closures (please make note in your Black Book.)

Restaurants:

Eden, p.59
Symposium, p.62

Nightlife:

Bee, p.114
Club 22, p.114
Voyage, p.94

