

## CRAPITTO'S CUCINA ITALIANA

2400 Mid Lane, Houston, Texas 77027 (713) 961-1161

Snugly tucked away on a shady little street in a friendly little house between San Felipe and Westheimer, Crapitto's is the ideal spot to meet someone for lunch, dinner, or a drink in the intimate bar. Owned by Frank Crapitto of one of Houston's original Italian families, the restaurant serves delicious fare to a comfortable clientele of satisfied regulars. Crab Cakes with Lemon Wine Sauce, or Crispy Parmesan Artichoke Hearts, deep fried and dusted with Parmesan are a great way to get the palate stimulated for what may follow. The pasta course includes Lasagna (Grandmother's recipe), Linguine with White Clam Sauce (diced bottleneck clams tossed with garlic and olive oil over linguine pasta), and Crawfish Tails Linguine in Alfredo or Marinero sauce. Grilled Rosemary Chicken topped with rosemary Dijon cream sauce and capers, Snapper Florentina (grilled salmon on a bed of creamed spinach, topped with mushrooms and lemon butter sauce), Veal cooked several ways, and Veal and Pork Rib Chops round out the tantalizing selection of entrees. For dessert, cheesecake, tiramisu, tres leches, espresso chocolate mousse cake, and spumoni ice cream are close at hand. Crapitto's service and wine list are at the same high level of sophistication as the Cucina, and put the finishing touches on a class dining experience.

## DESSERT GALLERY BAKERY & CAFE

1616 Post Oak Blvd. (713) 622-0007 and 3200 Kirby Blvd (713) 522-9999

This wonderful little operation is open late weekends for those who have a sweet tooth attack after a night on the town. During the day, the Dessert Gallery, in addition to a hugely tempting variety of cakes, cookies, sand tarts, lemon bars, and other goodies, makes fresh a healthy selection of wraps, sandwiches, and salads. Wraps include Thai Chicken Wrap, Southwest Turkey Wrap, and Chef Salad Wrap, with Boar's Head turkey, ham, and cheddar cheese. Salads range from Chicken Caesar Salad to The Great Greek with Chicken, to Ranch Hand Salad, made from oven-fried chicken breast on a bed of Romaine. Sandwiches include Ham I AM, Grandma's Chicken Salad, and the Power Veggie Supreme, avocado, provolone cheese, portobello mushrooms, sprouts, and low-fat sundried tomato mayo. Now for the GOOD part: Cakes include Chocolate Euphoria, not for the faint of heart...dark chocolate layers with chocolate chunks, divine and creamy chocolate filling, with MORE chocolate chunks and dark chocolate ganache covering the entire cake. You get the picture! Peanut Butter Paradise Cake, Turtle Candy Cake, gooey chocolate cake layers filled with caramel and pecans, Everyone's Favorite Mousse Cake, and German Chocolate Cake. Non-chocolate offerings include Lemon Vacherin, French Vanilla Cake, Carrot Cake, and Toffe-licious Cake. All Wraps, Salads, Sandwiches, slices or whole cakes or pies, and all other pastries are available for on-premise consumption, or take-out.

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*Note: By way of qualifications for reviewing restaurants, Hankamer has owned and operated numerous restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, discotheques and banquet halls over the last forty years; he has travelled to over 70 countries and has studied and lived in Europe for over three years; he was co-owner of a home delivery wine of the month club and imported his own wine labels for years.*

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