

The Basque People: One of the largest Basque communities outside of the Pyrenees Mountains is found in Bakersfield. There has been a Basque presence in the Americas since the age of Columbus. Basque's under the crown of Castile were among the explorers, priests and Conquistadors of the Spanish Empire. Basques began to come to English-speaking America during the 1848 California Gold Rush. The first wave of Basques were already living in Chile and Argentina and came when they heard word of the discovery of gold. When the gold rush died out, the majority of the Basque immigrants turned to ranching and sheep-herding in California's Central Valley, and later in northern Nevada and southern Idaho. Many more Basques arrived from the region spanning over parts of north-central Spain and southwestern France upon hearing of the success of their comrades in America.

Basque Cuisine: Bakersfield is home to the largest collection of Basque restaurants in the United States. Numerous Basque restaurants offer traditional Basque experiences, carrying on the traditions of their ancestors. A visitor can expect a Basque meal to be served family style at long trestle tables, with hearty courses, meat or seafood entree and a red wine present throughout the meal. Basque cuisine is at the heart of Basque culture, influenced by the neighboring communities and the excellent produce from the sea and the land.



Compliments of:
Bakersfield Convention & Visitors Bureau
515 Truxtun Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301
1-866-425-7353
VisitBakersfield.com

Bakersfield Basque

A complete guide to the area's historic Basque eateries



Benji's French Basque Restaurant

4001 Rosedale Hwy.

(661) 328-0400

Open: Monday, Wed-Sun

Lunch Hours - 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dinner Hours - 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Benji's offers seating for two to 275 with handicap accessible seating, banquet facilities, bus parking, special group tour rates, cocktail lounge, and take out orders. Major credit cards accepted.

Chalet Basque Restaurant

200 Oak St.

(661) 327-2915

Open: Seven days a week

Lunch Hours (Mon - Sat) - 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner Hours (Mon-Thurs) - 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Dinner Hours (Fri-Sun) - 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.

For more than 30 years Chalet Basque has provided authentic food with great service. Ample parking, banquet facilities and catering service. Group tours welcome with tour guide discount, cocktail lounge. Major credit cards accepted.

Narducci's Cafe

622 E. 21st St.

(661) 324-2961

Open: Seven days a week

Breakfast & Lunch Hours - 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Dinner (Mon - Thurs) - 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Dinner (Fri, Sat) - 5:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Located in nostalgic Old Town Kern area of Bakersfield, Narducci's serves Italian and Basque cuisine daily. Live entertainment (call for schedule), banquet facilities, bus parking, and cocktail lounge. Major credit cards accepted.

Noriega Hotel

525 Sumner St.

(661) 322-8419

Open: Tues-Sun

Breakfast - 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Lunch Seating - 12:00 p.m.

Dinner Seating - 7:00 p.m.

The Noriega Hotel was founded by Faustino Noriega in 1893. Taken over in 1931 by Juan and Gracianna Elizalde the eatery has been operated by the family ever since. Seating is arranged in traditional family style, with reservations being highly recommended. Seats 120, bus parking available, cocktail lounge. Major credit cards accepted.

Pyrenees Cafe

601 Sumner St.

(661) 323-0053

Lunch Hours (Mon - Sat) - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Dinner Hours (Mon - Thurs) - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Dinner Hours (Fri - Sat) - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Traditional Basque fare served family style. Reservations recommended. Seats 140, bus parking, banquet facilities, and cocktail lounge. Major credit cards accepted.

Wool Growers Restaurant

620 E. 19th St.

(661) 327-9584

Open: Mon - Sat

Lunch Hours - 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dinner Hours - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Mayie and J.B. Maitia open Wool Growers in 1954. Over 50 years later Mayie, along with her children, Jenny and Daniel, are still running the restaurant. Food served family style. Seats 280, bus parking available, banquet facilities, and cocktail lounge. Major credit cards accepted.

Business hours and seating availability may be limited. Please call before traveling.