

The Essential 38 Houston Restaurants, July 2014

Tuesday, July 1, 2014, by [Darla Guillen](#)

It's time to update the Eater 38, your answer and ours to any question that begins, "**Can you recommend a restaurant?**" This highly elite group covers the entire city, spans myriad cuisines, and collectively satisfies all of your restaurant needs, save for those occasions when you absolutely must spend half a paycheck. Every couple of months, we'll be adding pertinent restaurants that were omitted, have newly become eligible (restaurants must be open **at least six months**), or have stepped up their game. These restaurants aren't ranked in any particular order.

The new additions this time around include Caracol, Killen's Barbecue and MF Sushi; we say farewell to La Fisheria, Down House and Bijan Persian Grill.

Hit the [tipline](#) if you have a serious gripe, or if there are any places you think we should add to the next Essential 38 update.

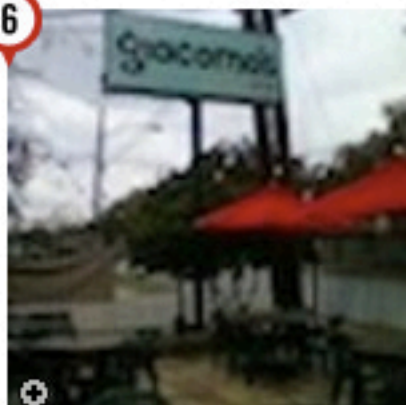

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GIACOMO'S CIBO E VINO

Another low-key spot that serves pasta made in-house, this restaurant really demonstrates not just what good Italian is, but what authentically exceptional Italian fare can be. And it manages to do so in a relaxed atmosphere, so you can focus exclusively on the food and warm service.

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