FOOD & CULINARY

Court Of Two Sisters Restaurant

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A Timeless Tradition: The Court of Two Sisters Restaurant in New Orleans

Few places in the world capture the magic of New Orleans quite like the **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant**. Situated in the heart of the French Quarter, this legendary dining establishment has been delighting locals and travelers for decades. Known for its lush garden courtyard, live jazz music, and an extraordinary daily buffet, the restaurant offers a sensory experience that goes far beyond the plate. Whether you are a first-time visitor to the Crescent City or a lifelong resident, stepping into the Court of Two Sisters is like stepping into a living postcard of old New Orleans charm.

In this article, we will explore the rich history, the unforgettable dining experiences, and the many reasons why the Court of Two Sisters Restaurant remains a beloved icon of Southern hospitality. From its storied past to its mouthwatering Creole cuisine, every corner of this establishment tells a story worth savoring.

A Rich History Rooted in the French Quarter

The building that houses the **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant** dates back to the late 1700s, making it one of the oldest structures in the French Quarter. Originally constructed as a private residence for a wealthy Creole family, the property has witnessed centuries of New Orleans history. The name "Court of Two Sisters" itself is steeped in local legend. It refers to two sisters, Emma and Bertha, who operated a small notions shop on the property in the early 20th century. Their close bond and entrepreneurial spirit became part of the neighborhood lore, and the name stuck long after their shop closed.

In 1963, the restaurant was officially founded by Joe Fein, a visionary restaurateur who recognized the potential of the stunning courtyard and historic building. Under his guidance, the Court of Two Sisters quickly became a gathering place for locals and a must-visit destination for tourists. Over the decades, the restaurant has maintained its commitment to authentic Creole cuisine, impeccable service, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Today, it is owned and operated by the Fein family, continuing a legacy that spans more than sixty years.

It is worth noting that the restaurant is located on Royal Street, one of the most iconic thoroughfares in the French Quarter. This prime location places guests within walking distance of Jackson Square, the St. Louis Cathedral, and the bustling nightlife of Bourbon Street. Yet, once you step inside the courtyard, the noise of the city fades away, replaced by the gentle trickle of a fountain and the melodic notes of a live jazz trio.

An Unforgettable Dining Experience: The Jazz Brunch

Without question, the signature experience at the **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant** is the renowned Jazz Brunch. Served daily from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, this lavish buffet has become a rite of passage for anyone visiting New Orleans. The sheer variety and quality of the offerings are staggering. Guests can choose from over eighty items, including classic Creole dishes, Southern comfort food, fresh seafood, carved meats, and an entire table dedicated to decadent desserts.

What sets the Jazz Brunch apart from other buffets is the seamless integration of music and atmosphere. As you fill your plate, a live jazz band plays timeless standards, adding a layer of elegance and joy to the meal. The combination of clinking glasses, soft laughter, and swinging melodies creates a backdrop that is quintessentially New Orleans. Many guests find themselves lingering for hours, savoring both the food and the ambiance.

Some of the most popular brunch items include:

- Eggs Hussarde – poached eggs on English muffin with ham and Marchand de Vin sauce
- Bananas Foster French Toast – a sweet twist on a classic New Orleans dessert
- Creole Seafood Gumbo – rich, dark, and full of crab and shrimp
- Carved Prime Rib – slow-roasted and served with horseradish cream
- Pain Perdu – the local name for French bread soaked in custard and fried

In addition to the buffet, the Court of Two Sisters also offers a limited à la carte menu for those who prefer a more traditional brunch experience. However, most guests agree that the buffet is the highlight, offering an unparalleled opportunity to sample a wide range of Creole and Cajun flavors in one sitting.

The Enchanting Courtyard: Dining Al Fresco in Style

One of the most distinctive features of the **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant** is its stunning courtyard. Covering nearly an entire city block, this outdoor dining space is a verdant oasis in the midst of the urban French Quarter. Towering banana trees, fragrant jasmine, and ancient magnolias create a canopy of green. A central fountain, adorned with cherubs and flowers, provides a soothing soundtrack of running water. String lights and wrought-iron chandeliers cast a warm glow as evening falls.

Dining in the courtyard is an experience that engages all the senses. The air is filled with the scent of blooming flowers and sizzling butter. The sounds of jazz and conversation blend harmoniously. And the visual beauty of the garden, with its historic architecture and lush plantings, is nothing short of enchanting. Many couples choose the Court of Two Sisters for wedding receptions, engagement dinners, and anniversary celebrations, drawn by the romantic ambiance.

Of course, New Orleans weather can be unpredictable, so the restaurant also offers elegant indoor dining rooms. These spaces are decorated with crystal chandeliers, antique mirrors, and original artwork, reflecting the building's historic character. Whether you choose to sit inside or outside, the service is attentive and gracious, embodying the Southern hospitality for which the restaurant is famous.

An Evening to Remember: Dinner at the Court of Two Sisters

While the Jazz Brunch is the most famous meal at the **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant**, dinner is equally impressive. The evening menu showcases the depth and sophistication of Creole cuisine, with an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients. Appetizers such as **Oysters Rockefeller**, **Crab Cakes with Remoulade**, and **Turtle Soup au Sherry** set the stage for a memorable meal.

Main courses range from classic Southern preparations to more contemporary interpretations. Some standout dishes include:

- Pan-Seared Redfish – served with crawfish étouffée and wild rice
- Grilled Filet Mignon – topped with a rich demi-glace and served with truffle mashed potatoes
- Chicken Pontalba – a Creole favorite with potatoes, ham, and mushrooms in a white wine sauce
- Shrimp and Grits – creamy stone-ground grits topped with Gulf shrimp and tasso ham gravy

The dinner menu also features an extensive wine list, with selections from France, Italy, California, and South America. The restaurant's sommelier is happy to recommend pairings that complement your meal. For a truly special evening, consider ordering the Chef's Tasting Menu, which includes several courses and wine pairings chosen by the culinary team.

Dinner service typically begins at 5:30 PM and runs until 9:00 PM or later, depending on the season. Reservations are strongly recommended, especially during peak tourist months and major festivals like Mardi Gras and Jazz Fest.

Private Events and Celebrations

Beyond its regular dining services, the **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant** is a premier venue for private events. The courtyard can accommodate up to 350 guests for a seated dinner or 500 for a cocktail reception. Smaller indoor rooms are available for intimate gatherings of 20 to 80 people. Whether you are planning a corporate dinner, a milestone birthday, or a wedding reception, the restaurant's events team works closely with you to create a customized experience.

The setting lends itself particularly well to rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions. Imagine exchanging vows beneath the ancient oaks of the courtyard, with the soft light of candles flickering around you. The Court of Two Sisters has hosted countless celebrations over the years, and their experience in event planning is evident in every detail.

For those interested in hosting an event, the restaurant offers several catering packages that include the signature Jazz Brunch or a plated dinner menu. The culinary team is adept at accommodating dietary restrictions, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options, ensuring that every guest feels welcome.

Location and Practical Tips for Visitors

The **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant** is located at 613 Royal Street, in the heart of the French Quarter. It is easily accessible on foot from most hotels in the area. If you are driving, several paid parking garages are nearby, though parking in the French Quarter can be challenging during busy periods. Many visitors prefer to take a taxi, rideshare, or the historic streetcar to avoid the hassle.

Here are a few tips to make the most of your visit:

1. Make a reservation – especially for the Jazz Brunch on weekends, tables fill up quickly.
2. Request courtyard seating – if weather permits, ask for a table in the garden for the full experience.
3. Go hungry – the brunch buffet is vast, so pace yourself and leave room for dessert.
4. Visit during the week – Monday through Thursday tends to be less crowded than weekends.
5. Dress comfortably but respectfully – the restaurant has a smart casual dress code; no shorts or flip-flops are allowed after 5:00 PM.

The restaurant is open seven days a week, with brunch served from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and dinner from 5:30 PM to close. The Court of Two Sisters also offers a limited lunch menu for those who want a lighter meal in the courtyard.

Why the Court of Two Sisters Endures

In a city known for its culinary excellence, the **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant** has managed to stand out for over half a century. What is the secret to its enduring popularity? Part of it is the setting—the courtyard is simply one of the most beautiful outdoor dining spaces in America. Part of it is the food—the Creole recipes have been perfected over generations. And part of it is the atmosphere—the combination of live jazz, Southern hospitality, and historic charm creates an experience that feels both timeless and uniquely New Orleans.

But perhaps the greatest reason for the restaurant's success is its ability to make every guest feel special. From the moment you walk through the door, you are treated like family. The staff is friendly and knowledgeable, the service is unhurried, and the entire experience is designed to be savored. In a fast-paced world, the Court of Two Sisters invites you to slow down, relax, and enjoy the moment.

Conclusion

The **Court of Two Sisters Restaurant** is more than just a place to eat—it is a living landmark that embodies

the soul of New Orleans. With its rich history, breathtaking courtyard, exceptional Creole cuisine, and live jazz, it offers an experience that stays with you long after the meal is over. Whether you are a first-time visitor or a seasoned local, a meal at this iconic restaurant is a celebration of everything that makes the Crescent City special. If you are planning a trip to New Orleans, be sure to put the Court of Two Sisters on your itinerary. You will leave with a full stomach, a happy heart, and memories that will last a lifetime.

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