

## WHERE TO EAT

## DANVILLE

**Albatross** The plate presentations at Albatross are highly refined; the flavors, worldly; the decor, sophisticated. Yet the vibe is relaxed and convivial. Grilled octopus arrives with baby potatoes. Kampachi is lightly cured and served ceviche-style with winter citrus. And lamb ragù lands in Persia with a crispy saffron rice cake and preserved peppers. Even our dessert was extraordinary: a perfectly poached pear served with silky caramelized white chocolate. 312 Railroad Ave., 925.718.5445, [albatrossdanville.com](http://albatrossdanville.com). Brunch Sat.–Sun., dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Basque Boulangerie Café** This cafe shines particularly bright at breakfast, when rich, baked-from-scratch French toast and bread pudding demand an extra shot of espresso in your latte or a second cup of coffee from the array of self-serve choices. A modest beer and wine list add intrigue at night. 411 Hartz Ave., Ste.

A-1, 925.208.1631, [basqueboulangerie.com](http://basqueboulangerie.com). Breakfast and lunch Wed.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

**Blue Gingko** Blue Gingko's waterside lounge reels in passersby to a piscine paradise. The sushi is always pristine, but lunch is the best value, with generous slabs of nigiri (ask for halibut fin, when available) and seaweed salad. Winning small plates include crunchy soft-shell crabs and tempura prawn lettuce wraps. 3496 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., 925.648.7838, [bluegingko.bluedel-tarestaurantgroup.com](http://bluegingko.bluedel-tarestaurantgroup.com). Dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Blue Line Pizza** The signature deep-dish at this modern pizza parlor is phenomenal, packing spinach into a buttery cornmeal crust with feta and a garlicky rough-cut tomato sauce that seals the deal. Spicy chicken wings don't get any better, and the salads are bold and beautiful. 550 Hartz Ave., 925.362.3295, [bluelinepizza.com](http://bluelinepizza.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Bridges Restaurant and Bar** After more than 30 years, Bridges remains remarkably fresh. The refined, Asian- and French-accented menu shows both creativity (comice pear and baby spinach salad and kimchi vinaigrette) and craftsmanship (New

York steak served with edamame and bacon). Famous for its scene in *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Bridges has a stunning atmosphere (including the garden patio) that is timeless. 44 Church St., 925.820.7200, [bridgesdanville.com](http://bridgesdanville.com). Lunch Mon.–Fri., dinner daily, brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Cielito Cocina Mexicana** With its made-to-order griddled tortillas and Western theme, Cielito has soul. It also boasts natural light and whimsical furnishings. The menu is not cheap, but the upscale tacos are a great value, and the meats rock—especially the carne asada and the carnitas (try the hash at brunch). Skip the chewy ceviche and start with a drink instead; the Diablo margarita is a winner. 445 Railroad Ave., 925.725.4732, [cielitodanville.com](http://cielitodanville.com). Dinner nightly, lunch Mon.–Fri., brunch Sat.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

**Cocina Hermanas** Affordable gourmet tacos are reason enough to hit the wraparound patio at Cocina Hermanas, but this hacienda's cool bar and inventive platillos principales are equally seductive. Flautas—crispy tortillas stuffed with creamy shrimp and crab—and dense, mole-like enchiladas are winners. The grilled corn on the cob

slathered in chipotle crema, lime, cotija cheese and cilantro tastes like a true tribute to summer. 501 Hartz Ave., 925.725.4161, [cocinahermanas.com](http://cocinahermanas.com). Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. 🍷🍷🍷

**Crumbs** This umbrella-festooned eatery offers hearty American breakfast and lunch standards every day. 428 Railroad Ave., Ste. B, 925.838.8824, [crumbsdanville.com](http://crumbsdanville.com). Breakfast and lunch daily. 🍷🍷🍷

**Danville Harvest** The country-chic, farm-to-table restaurant showcases elevated comfort food with a Southern twang. A mustardy, South Carolina-style barbecue pork loin, scallion hush puppies, and My Mama's Breakfast Plate (at brunch) are seductive samples. With a vibrant bar and lounge, and a homey yet stylish dining room with a full-exhibition kitchen, Danville Harvest welcomes all comers. 500 Hartz Ave., 925.362.3665, [danvilleharvest.com](http://danvilleharvest.com). Brunch Sat.–Sun., lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷

**Esin Restaurant and Bar** It has a reputation for fine dining, but Esin is really more of a classy neighborhood bistro, attracting friends and families with its affordable "small" plates and three-course dinner

## Key to Symbols

🍷 Cheap (\$10 or less per dinner entree)

🍷🍷 Inexpensive (\$11–\$17)

🍷🍷🍷 Moderate (\$18–\$24)

🍷🍷🍷🍷 Expensive (more than \$25)

🍷 Wine and beer

🍷 Full bar

🌞 Outdoor dining

🍷 Private room parties of 50 or more

🕒 Late-night dining (service after 10 p.m.)

🐕 Dog friendly

🐕 Dog friendly (when seasonal patio is open)

Restaurant listings are courtesy of Diablo magazine. Pick up a copy for a full East Bay list.

specials. House-made pastas, pot roast, and comforting cakes and pies, along with weighty flatware, crisp service and a serious wine list add up to one of Contra Costa's most consistently excellent restaurants. Depending on your mood, choose seating on the casual patio or in the stately dining room. 750 Camino Ramon, 925.314.0974, [esinrestaurant.com](http://esinrestaurant.com). Lunch and dinner daily. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

**Faz** Faz's warm wood interior with surrounding redwoods and a twinkle of tiny white lights creates an enticing mood. The menu features a Mediterranean medley of house-made pastas, smoked and spit-roasted

meats, and fresh seafood. Have the grilled rack of lamb with mint chutney, and finish with tiramisu. 600 Hartz Ave., 925.838.1320, [fazrestaurants.com](http://fazrestaurants.com). Dinner Wed.–Sat. 🍷🍷🍷

**Forbes Mill Steakhouse** With its expansive lounge, Forbes feels like a Las Vegas-style steakhouse. Check out the white anchovy-dressed Caesar salad, the panko-crust crabcakes and buttery Kobe steaks. The wine list boasts powerful Napa Valley reds that can stand up to the meat. 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., 925.552.0505, [forbesmillsteakhouse.com](http://forbesmillsteakhouse.com). Dinner Fri.–Wed. 🍷🍷🍷🍷



Scan this code for a complete list of Tri-Valley restaurants.