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The Nation's Best?

Kevin McHale's  
Fall from Grace

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Zimmern's  
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# Mpls St Paul

NOVEMBER 2007  
mspmag.com

## 99 Bargains

- Shoes \* Jeans \*
- Bags \* Furniture
- \* Movies \* Wine
- \* and More!

# GREAT STUFF

# Cheap!



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chain will run you about \$20, so what if we told you the Twin Cities' best pizza could be had for \$5.95, end of story? **Punch Neapolitan Pizza** sells a basic Margherita or Napoli pie for less than six bones. It's not only cheap, but it's exactly what a pie should be—golden brown crust, real tomato sauce, and just enough gooey cheese. Add a salad, some of that drippy artichoke dip, and you've still got change from the prefab pie you almost purchased. *Four metro locations, including 704 Cleveland Ave. S., St. Paul, 651-696-1066, punchpizza.com*

#### KIDS EAT FREE!

There are scads of national chains that feed your kids for free one night a week, but your stomach will pay. **D'Amico & Sons**, on the other hand, offers free fare for kids on Sunday, and the food is about as good as quick-serve Italian can get. Plus, meals come with a free drink and cookie. *Seven metro locations, including 975 Grand Ave., St. Paul, 651-227-9933, damicoandsons.com*

#### 112 WAYS TO CHEAP OUT

**112 Eatery** shows no sign of giving up its reign as the nexus of cool foodie value. Check out all the bottles of wine under \$35—or all the glasses under \$10. Many pasta dishes are available in two sizes for value hounds. The \$7 bacon-fried egg-harissa sandwich remains our favorite barometer of cheap treats—decadent, delicious, and simple. *112 N. 3rd St., Mpls., 612-343-7696, 112eatery.com*



Happy hour treats at Saffron.

#### A FOODIE'S HAPPY HOUR

You might find it odd that saffron, one of the food world's most expensive ingredients by weight, is also the name of an underappreciated local restaurant with one of the cheapest gourmet bar menus around. Try **Saffron's** value carte of Middle East/Mediterranean fare, which includes a genius \$3.50 lamb BLT with tomato jam, arugula, and tarragon or \$3.50 *charmoula* burgers with cucumber yogurt and pickled onions—both are available during the early and late happy hours. *123 N. 3rd St., Mpls., 612-746-5533, saffronmpls.com*

#### ABU NADER FOR NEXT TO NADA

**Abu Nader Deli** serves simple but superb Middle Eastern classics—from the area's best falafel sandwich topped with homemade turnip pickles to incredible homemade pita bread, hummus, tabbouleh, baba gannouj, and spinach pies. Meatarians will love the *schwarma*. And the food at Abu Nader costs almost nada. Combo platters with a bit of everything never top \$8 and most of us can eat for around \$5. *2095 Como Ave., St. Paul, 651-647-5391*

#### UNIVERSITY AVENUE FOR \$6 (OR LESS)

We've touted **Va Lor's** green papaya salad all year—made in a stone mortar, redolent of fresh lime, garlic, chilies, and fish sauce—it's Southeast Asia on a plate. Everything at this place is \$2 to \$6, from the hot-and-sweet shrimp rolls to fried sausages with purple sticky rice. This is humble food for the people, made with lots of love. *371 University Ave. W., St. Paul*

#### GO FOR BROKE BARGAIN

We know, the best brunch you ever had was at Bally's in Las Vegas in 1995. There was so much Champagne, the servers were practically pouring it over you—but brunch in these parts is a little classier. Our suggestion: Get right with God, then get right to Wolfgang Puck's **20.21** for an all-you-can-eat feast of brioche French toast with cinnamon apples, omelets made to order, pastrami hash with poached eggs and béarnaise, smoked salmon pizza, blue cheese potato gratin, and more, all for \$28—plus a complimentary Champagne cocktail. *Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls., 612-253-3410*

SO YOU WANT A...

HALF-PRICED BOTTLE OF WINE

Be a wine aficionado without breaking the bank with our picks for half-priced wine nights. Call ahead for hours and to see whether a food purchase is required.

#### MONDAY:

**Downtowner Woodfire Grill**, 253 W. 7th St., St. Paul, 651-228-9500  
**The Sample Room**, 2124 NE Marshall St., Mpls., 612-789-0333, the-sample-room.com

#### TUESDAY:

**Temple**, 1201 Harmon Pl., Mpls., 612-767-3770, mplstemple.com  
**Kay's Wine Bar & Bistro**, 7924 Main St., Maple Grove, 763-420-6980

#### WEDNESDAY:

**Pizza Lucé**, 2200 Franklin Ave. E., Mpls., 612-332-2535, pizzaluce.com  
**Kafé 421**, 421 14th Ave. SE, Mpls., 612-623-4900, kafe421.com

#### THURSDAY:

**El Mesón**, 3450 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., 612-822-8062, elmesonbistro.com  
**La Bodega**, 3005 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., 612-823-0307

#### FRIDAY:

**Spill the Wine**, 1101 Washington Ave. S., Mpls., 612-339-3388, spillthewinerestaurant.com  
**Azia**, 2550 Nicollet Ave., Mpls., 612-813-1200, aziarestaurant.com

#### SATURDAY:

**French Meadow Bakery**, 2610 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., 612-870-7855, frenchmeadowbakery.com

#### SUNDAY:

**The Happy Gnome**, 498 Selby Ave., St. Paul, 651-287-2018, thehappygnome.com  
**Axel's River Grille**, 1318 Sibley Memorial Hwy., Mendota, 651-686-4840

**@ mspmag.com**  
 LOOKING FOR CHEAP BARBECUE RIBS IN SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS?

INEXPENSIVE PIZZA IN ST. PAUL? SEARCH MORE THAN 1,000 TWIN CITIES RESTAURANTS BY PRICE AT [mspmag.com/dining](http://mspmag.com/dining).