

Havre de Grace — *The Pizza Place!*

By Michele Hartlove

According to a Google™ search,
Americans eat approximately
90-100 acres of pizza a DAY!
350 slices a SECOND!

Each of us on average consuming
23 lbs or 46 slices per year!

PIZZA is a \$30 billion annual industry!

Surprisingly Havre de Grace fits well into the above statistics. Who knew Havre de Grace would become fairly well known as a pizza place (in addition, of course, to its other obvious food attractions)?

Just as the city has grown in leaps and bounds over the past several years yet maintained its integrity and charm, so too have the number and types of restaurants serving pizza.

From the newest newcomer, **Moore's Pizza** in the Harbor Shops on Pulaski Highway (Route 40) to the addition in recent years of **Seasons**, **Frank's**, **Nonnie's** and **La Cucina's**, and the old favorites such as **Pizza Hut** and **Pat's Pizza**, you'll find a 'pie' to please every palate in our fair city.

It seems just about everyone likes pizza. But when it comes to asking aficionados about their favorites, the opinions can be as varied as...well, the number of pizza places themselves.

We took an informal survey of Havre de Grace residents and pizza connoisseurs and found generally everyone loved pizza (surprise!) but were specifically passionate about their favorites for a wide range of reasons.

Tom Phelan, a volunteer firefighter in Havre de Grace, enjoys a lot of pizza with his wife and teenage daughter and son and has frequented most all of the local establishments.

When it comes to his favorite pizza, Tom says, "It depends on what you're looking for. For take out slices, it's La Cucina.

They have a nice New York style cheese or white vegetable. If I'm taking out, to me, it's Nonnie's vegetable, pepperoni and sausage pizza. You gotta eat it with a knife and fork.

If you're going out, it's Pizza Hut.

Most of the chain pizzas can be pretty bland, but Pizza Hut is good. We can all pick what we want with personal pizzas.



And they have lots of other (food) options. It's affordable and they serve beer."

Others agree it depends on how you're actually getting or eating your pizza...i.e., by the slice, carry out, delivery or eat in.

La Cucina is another favorite for eating in, also because of the other food options available and the atmosphere, which is unique with its hand painted murals that make you feel, just for a little while, that you're in Italy. "My kids love La Cucina's pizza the best," says Val Kelly, who frequents the restaurant with her husband and two children. "I think it is the Italian atmosphere of the restaurant and the excitement of being in downtown Havre de Grace."

Nonnie's is a favorite for take out or delivery, which is a pleasant surprise given the fact you can get authentic brick oven pizza to go.

Seasons Pizza seems to be a new favorite among the "chain" pizza restaurants. Beth Brinsfield stands by it as her new favorite. "The pizza is yummy, affordable and the service is fast and friendly." Her family of four likes Seasons' cheese pizza, but she said, "Their white pizza is awesome!"

Pizza Hut, which has been around the longest, appears to be the favorite of families among the current establishments. "We eat a lot of pizza, at least three times a month, and go to all of them, but we like Pizza Hut best, especially the pan pizza," said Kevin Lewis, whose twin daughters nearby concurred.

The newest, Moore's Pizzeria, which just opened this summer, is already getting rave reviews as a place to go whether you're in a hurry or want to eat in. Kris Bonitatibus stopped in with his daughter and a friend from New Orleans just weeks after it opened because he said they wanted to "try something new and different, not a chain restaurant" and saw it while driving by. He said the pizza, with its homemade ingredients, was very good. Moore's also offers a variety of other foods including wings, hoagies and more.

When it comes to teenagers (who, by unofficial statistics, probably consume the largest quantities of pizza per capita), it appears the "chain" restaurants like Pizza Hut, Pat's and Seasons are the faves. A recent survey of teens also surprisingly revealed that more traditional toppings like pepperoni and sausage are favored over fads or anything new.

But kids can be even pickier about pizza than adults, and all that we interviewed, across the board, said that the pizza dough or "crust" was what determined their choice for favorite pizza place, with Pizza Hut's stuffed crust being mentioned most frequently as best.

Perhaps the prevalence of such great pizza places caused the surprise closing of another well-known pizza chain...(dare we say the "D" word?)

Suffice it to say, you can spend weeks enjoying a 'taste test' of Havre de Grace pizza establishments. We encourage you to give it try. Then head to our website, www.HavredeGraceTheMeetingPlace.com for our survey and drawings! ~ **Buon appetite!** 🍷



Head to our website to vote for YOUR favorite Pizza Spot. In January we'll have a drawing for EACH!

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