


burgers are made from frozen beef flown in from the mainland. Not this place. The hamburger is fresh and locally raised (which seems to have a...*beefier* flavor than standard beef). They also mix herbs into the meat, and results are wonderful. Patties are 1/3-pound, and you can get 1 to 4 of them on a bun. (For the record, we can't visualize how someone could manage to eat the 1 1/3-pound TKO burger.) The quality is excellent as are the tasty (but pricey) fries. Vegetarians can get the taro burger, and beer is also available. A good place for tasty, guilty pleasure. In the Kona Commons on Makala north of downtown Kona. **\$7-\$15** for lunch and dinner.

U • Top • It
75-5799 Alii Dr. • 329-0092

 Kona—There's nothing else like this on the island. Everything orbits their tasty taro pan-crêpes. Top 'em any way you like. Add sausage, spam, fried rice and eggs, and you have their Kanak Attack. Top the pan-crêpes with tomatoes, basil, pepperoni, salami and cheese, and you have the Pizzaro. Or add chocolate hazelnut, raspberries and passionfruit sauce, and you get Pele's Passion dessert. The topping selection is vast, so it's only your imagination that stands between you and a good meal. Be creative and enjoy the novelty. They also have burgers, pork chops, teri beef and other non-crêpe items. Good Tropical Dreams ice cream. This is a great concept—what's not to love? Hidden away behind Island Lava Java on Alii Drive. **\$9-\$14** for breakfast and lunch. Closed Mondays.


KAILUA-KONA CHINESE

Ocean Seafood
75-5626 Kuakini Hwy • 329-3055
Kona—The food is more authentic than most Chinese restaurants, and the price is compelling. Usually well-prepared dishes,

fresh ingredients and lots of attention to quality, but sometimes they drop the ball. Buffets offered most of the time—these are an *excellent* bargain. Lunch buffet for **\$10**, dinner buffet **\$14-\$16**. Otherwise, off the menu is **\$10-\$20** per person. Located in the King Kamehameha Mall in Kona. See map on page 61.

KAILUA-KONA FRENCH

La Bourgogne French Restaurant
77-6400 Nalani St. • 329-6711

 Kona—This *tiny* restaurant on Hwy 11 between Keahou and Kona serves tasty and well-conceived dishes, including lamb, duck, venison, rabbit, lobster and even veal sweetbreads. Good and reasonably priced wine list. Entrée prices are in a pretty narrow range. Only dings: a bit cramped and enclosed with no view. Closed Sunday and Monday. Dinner is **\$37-\$47**. Reservations recommended. We haven't changed our review in a while because this place hasn't change much over time.

KAILUA-KONA ITALIAN


Bianelli's
75-1027 Henry St. • 334-0377

 Kona—Long-time visitors might remember Bianelli's. It was one of those great places that mysteriously closed. After a six-year absence, they reopened in the Kona Natural Foods health food store in the Crossroads Shopping Center mauka of Hwy 11. Although it's the same owner and recipes, the food isn't quite as good as I remember. (But memory can be a funny thing, especially with food.) They're still good, though. For the pizza, opt for the deep dish crust (the reason for the ONO) instead of the New York. And try the killer pesto and pine nut bread. By-the-slice is cheap at \$3. Take-out or snag an outdoor table. **\$5-\$10** for lunch and dinner.

Boston Basil's Italian Restaurant
75-5707 Alii Dr. • 326-7836


Kona—A gigantic menu that'll take you awhile to navigate. You got your pizza, your pasta, various parmigianas, lots of chicken, 1/2-pound burgers, seafood, sandwiches and...more, but you get the picture. It's hard to do everything well, and unfortunately, the food reflects this. Items taste hastily assembled with cheap ingredients. They peak at the beginning with the tasty French bread, then it's all downhill. Some downstairs tables have a sliver of a view of Kailua Bay. Upstairs tables feel a bit pinned in, but there's live music most nights. **\$12-\$25** for lunch and dinner, but you can do a slice and soda for \$6. Across from Hulihe'e Palace where Alii meets Likana.

Kona Brewing Co. & Brewpub
75-5629 Kuakini Hwy • 334-2739

 Kona—A cool place to go for some tasty brew and a pizza or salad. Twelve taps feature 9 or so different beers made there, as well as seasonal and guest beers. They range from the mild (Lilikoi Wheat Ale) to the not-so-mild (Fire Rock Pale Ale). Their best is the Hefeweissen. Most of the pizzas (except their Hawaiian style) are delicious. *Love* the Ka'u Pesto. If you normally sprinkle red peppers on your pizza, consider replacing the regular sauce with their Cajun sauce instead. In fact, they have 8 different sauces and *lots* of toppings, so the possibilities are many. As a result, we're forced to review them often so we can evaluate all the permutations. (We do it for you, only for you. Aren't we selfless?) Their Kilauea lava flow dessert is pretty criminal, and a half portion is probably enough for two. The service could use a little improvement, and we wish they could do something about the flies and gnats at the outside tables, but overall, this is a *great* place with the best pizza on the island.

\$14-\$24 for lunch and dinner. At the end of Pawai Place off Kaiwi Street. See map on page 61. No reservations, and long waits are not uncommon.

Patz Pies
81-6596 Mamalahoa Hwy • 323-8100


 South of Kona—Yeah, now we're talking. An easy-to-miss little hole in the wall on Hwy 11 in Kealakekua that dispenses outstanding New York-style pizza for cheap prices. Grab it and go. The owner is a genuine New York pizza-maker, and the product shows pride in workmanship. A slice is \$3 and a large pizza (for two or three people) is \$17-\$25. That means you can expect to eat well for **\$5-\$12**. Across from Discovery Antiques between mile markers 112 and 113.

Pizzeria Zacchini
73-5618 Maiau St. • 217-8585

 Kona—A great find tucked away in an industrial area near Costco. It's worth drilling into the Kaloko Industrial Park just for their food. They use a brick oven to make excellent 7- and 12-inch pizzas along with a few salads and sandwiches. Flavors are more authentic Italian than most island pizza joints, and the price is very reasonable for the Big Island. Consider the prosciutto and arugula, and you can skip the salad. (They put fresh leaves on top after baking.) Or get the Goodfella and have 'em add pepperoni for a meaty meal. Service is friendly. At Maiau and Kamanu. **\$10-\$18** for lunch and dinner.

KAILUA-KONA JAPANESE

Hayashi's You Make The Roll
75-5725 Alii Dr. • 326-1322

 Kona—Tasty and cheap. The sushi is made right before your eyes and tastes great. Just a few outdoor tables, but this is the place