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## UNIQUE DINING EXPERIENCES IN OCALA/MARION COUNTY

**OCALA, Fla.** – From special occasions to fun family outings, Ocala/Marion County offers several unique dining options that will satisfy every party. Whether you're looking for casual dining on the shores of Lake Weir or a more upscale experience in the heart of historic downtown Ocala, we recommend a visit to any or all of these one-of-a-kind restaurants:

[Mojo Grill and Catering Company](#) embraces the look and feel of New Orleans with a twist of Cuban flair. Upon entering, the dimmed lighting and legendary blues music playing in the background immediately make for a cool, vibrant dining experience. The menu offers something for everyone, with gluten-free and vegetarian options sure to satisfy every taste. For those not able to make it to the restaurant, their appetizing dishes can make a guest appearance at any event thanks to Mojo's full-service catering.

A hidden gem nestled on Lake Weir, [Eaton's Beach Sand Bar and Steam Shack](#) is making a name for itself by pioneering a unique blend of Southern soul and flavor. The late Executive Chef Dave Del Rio skillfully interpreted Cajun, Spanish and Creole cuisine and blended them with Florida culture to create a "Florisiana™" menu. Florisiana™ celebrates the flavors of the South with a Caribbean spin found only in the Sunshine State, resulting in bold yet familiar comfort foods such as barbecue shrimp, Ybor City Gumbo and crawfish pie. Eaton's Beach has handicap accessibility from the entrance to the shoreline, waterfront dining, a full-service bar, flat-screen TVs, a floating dock, and event space for private parties.

For an elevated dining experience, visit [SKY Fine Dining](#), an exceptional restaurant situated on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Holiday Inn & Suites – Ocala Conference Center. The gifted culinary team at SKY takes premium international ingredients and adds their own interpretation, resulting in a fresh take on authentic Asian cuisine. SKY also includes a custom-made bar serving award-winning cocktails, a private dining room that can seat up to 20 people, and stylish, regional décor that transports you to another time and place. SKY holds a *Florida Trend* Golden Spoon Award.

Another fine-dining option to consider is [La Cuisine](#), located in historic downtown Ocala. Their award-winning menu offers French-inspired dishes utilizing fresh ingredients and products, all served in a chic old-world setting. Whether you're looking for a romantic evening for two, or a private dining event, the restaurant's French-bistro atmosphere will make you feel like you're in the heart of Paris. La Cuisine holds a *Florida Trend* Golden Spoon Award.

With a menu that includes pan-fried Mozzarella, fried green tomatoes and a signature "Krispy Chicken" baked in rice crispy batter for extra crunch and flavor, [Ivy on the Square](#) serves up traditional Southern cooking with gourmet flair. Indulge in the savory appetizers and main dishes, and indulge in a Pecan Tulipe made with hand-crafted praline ice cream, fresh strawberries,

whipped cream and chocolate ganache, all served in a homemade praline shell. This elegant eatery overlooking the square in historic downtown Ocala is overflowing with Southern charm and reservations are highly recommended.

If you're looking for a more laid-back experience, try [Brooklyn's Backyard](#). This quirky eatery embraces its namesake and is decorated with yard ornaments, lanterns, and grass, making it the perfect place to pull up a lawn chair and enjoy a delicious meal. The menu features everything from burgers and salads to award-winning pizzas.

[Big Lee's BBQ](#) is a world-class addition to the Ocala/Marion County culinary scene. Owner Rashad Jones infuses his passion for BBQ into his outstanding menu, and even has his own Food Network show, "Eat. Sleep. BBQ." Visitors drive in from surrounding states to purchase BBQ from this legendary food trailer.

Enjoy a few craft beers and unwind at [Infinite Ale Works](#) after an adventure-filled day. This spacious brewery is located in downtown Ocala and brews five different in-house beers at a time, ranging from Belgian-style royal stouts to quadruple ales. Their taproom features 40 different selections of craft beer, which will surprise and satisfy each guest and expand their craft beer palates. The friendly staff and relaxed surroundings make Infinite Ale Works an ideal locale for beer experts and beginners alike. Round out the brewery experience with a brick-oven pizza delivery from [Pi on Broadway](#), Infinite Ale Works' sister company.

Wine enthusiasts will find heaven at the [Ocala Wine Experience](#). This upscale bistro is a great place to enjoy a light meal, light music and a variety of bottled brews and wines. The menu showcases a wide selection of delicious cheese plates, small bites and pizzas that will go perfectly with any wine or beer pairing. The knowledgeable staff will guide each guest through a wide array of wines, champagnes, and beers to provide the ultimate wining and dining experience.

Finally, [The Corkscrew](#) in scenic downtown Ocala offers a taste of hands-on wine and beer making. The master winemakers at this classically styled winery give visitors the opportunity to create wines tailored to their individual palates, leaving them with 30 bottles of their custom reserve at the end of the fermenting process. There's also an option to design a custom beer, taking home 50 bottles of it by the time the process is over. If winemaking isn't your forte, simply enjoy wine and beer by the glass or bottle and live music on Friday and Saturday nights.

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### **About Ocala/Marion County:**

Ocala/Marion County offers countless opportunities to connect with nature and relax in a classic Florida destination. Home to the Ocala National Forest, the second largest national forest in the state, as well as historic Silver Springs. This unique destination is ideal for both leisure and business travelers who seek authentic outdoor experiences. Known as the Horse Capital of the World™ with more than 700 horse farms, the County boasts a legacy of breeding and training world champion thoroughbreds. Centrally located less than two hours from Orlando, Daytona Beach and Tampa, Ocala/Marion County is a must-stop when visiting Central Florida. For more information on Ocala/Marion County, visit our [website](#), follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Twitter](#), or call toll-free 1.888.FL.OCALA.