

# RESTAURANTS NEAR CAMPUS TO FILL UP ON

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These locally owned restaurants are happy to serve college students tasty options. Here are a few options to consider for your next lunch break. These places are all within walking distance of campus.



STUDENTS WAIT IN LINE TO ORDER AT TOWER TEA IN TOWER DISTRICT ON APRIL 18, 2024. PHOTO BY PAIGE GERBER.

## TOWER TEA

Tower Tea is located on the corner of Van Ness and McKinley, a five-minute walk from Fresno City College. It specializes in drinks like tea, boba, smoothies, slushies, and coffee. The restaurant also serves a variety of food, including noodles, rice bowls, quick bites, and appetizers. It's open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

It has plenty of indoor and outdoor seating. The average service time for a student to come in and eat is about 10-15 minutes. The most popular menu items are ramen, teriyaki bowls, popcorn chicken fries, and Thai tea.

Customers can place orders for pickup online.



EMPLOYEES AT MI CAFESITO ON APRIL 18, 2024. PHOTO BY PAIGE GERBER.

## MI CAFESITO

Mi Cafesito, located on the corner of Van Ness Ave and Home Ave, serves unique chilaquiles, breakfast tortas, and Hispanic coffee drinks made from coffee harvested from Latin America. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On weekdays, it is busiest around noon, but plenty of tables are available.

Evelyn Gutierrez the owner, shared that some students come in and stay for hours while they do their homework. They also offer student specials.

The menu has chilaquiles and breakfast tortas. It's \$16 for a plate of food and drink. They have a 10% discount with a school ID.

On Mondays or Tuesdays, they offer a deal: when you buy a chilaquile, you get a free cup of coffee. They offer vegan options as well, including oat, soy, and almond milk.



THE LAYOUT OF THE RESTAURANT QUESADILLA GORILLA, PHOTO TAKEN ON APRIL 18, 2024. PHOTO BY PAIGE GERBER.

## QUESADILLA GORILLA

Quesadilla Gorilla, located on the corner of Echo and Weldon, across from Fresno High, serves quesadillas in unique combinations. The restaurant is a seven-minute walk from campus, and customers can order takeout on Yelp. There is wonderful indoor or outdoor seating and a welcoming atmosphere.

They are open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Meals are typically around \$16 for a plate of food and drink. Depending on the busyness, customers can expect their food to come out in 5-10 minutes.

The most popular item is the Evan Boling, the number one on the menu, with cilantro lime chicken, bacon, and jalapenos, the house sauce called cilantro cream that comes in all the top builds, and white mix cheese.

For anyone who has a sweet tooth, they have a dessert quesadilla on the menu called the sweet-dilla. You can combine either Nutella, peanut butter, bananas, or strawberry jelly, and it's kind of like a quesadilla version of a crepe topped off with powdered sugar and cocoa powder.

They also offer vegan options for cheese, and customers can customize ingredients to make meals gluten-free and vegetarian.

The atmosphere is great for studying and focusing. During happy hour on Monday-Friday from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., customers can get chips and queso or a cheese quesadilla for just \$5. Student specials aren't available, but Silva said they may be coming soon.

Graphic by Logan Payne

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- Join the newsroom and have a safe space to write, study, and laugh with new friends



# REVIEW: T.T.P.D

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At the top of her career, Taylor Swift delivered her 11th album "The Tortured Poets Department" (TTPD) which is a tortuous listen in the absolute worst way.

This comes after a huge year for Swift with "The Eras Tour" movie making \$261.7 million and a controversial Grammy win for Album of the Year for "Midnights," where she announced TTPD the same night.

TTPD is a ballad-centric album that focuses on complex lyrics to talk about her past relationships with her long-term boyfriend Joe Alwyn and The 1975 controversial frontman, Matt Healy; more so on the ladder.

At its highest, TTPD is a boring and overly complicated album about almost nothing, and at its lowest an unoriginal, sleepy, lazy, long run-on sentence that is somehow considered a finished product.

I can appreciate what Swift and Jack Antonoff, her producer, were trying to accomplish with the pretty sounds and grand lyrics that give off major Adele vibes; and while some of the songs do land in some shape or form, I have no interest in going back to this album.

The biggest issue is the songwriting. Some of these lyrics are comically long and are filled with nothingness and congested with empty words.

It feels like a high school English class when the teacher says something like "what does it mean when the character wears a red sweater and walks under the green lights walking south?" And then they have some long-winded answer about how it represents silent anger or whatever when it means nothing. That's what Swift sounds like.

Most of TTPD, especially with the addition of the deluxe version that makes the run time two hours, is just like yelling three or more syllable words into an empty cavern making her sound more like a poet discussing heartbreak to sound insightful; when in reality, Swift sounds like she's trying to expand the word count of an essay to meet the minimum requirements.

Also, some of Swift's lyrics are insane. It can go from painfully cringe to empty or wild statements that take you out of the album entirely; there is little creativity or nuance with anything she spews out. Take a lyric from "I Hate It Here."

"My friends used to play a game where we would pick a decade we wished we could live in instead of this I'd say the 1830s but without all the racists."

What does that even mean? Why does she need to add "without all the racists?" Is anyone insisting that Swift is racist by any means?

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