Restaurants in Palo Alto and Menlo Park—Mary Bobel’s Picks
For those of you in town before and after our reunion and looking for restaurants, here is a list of a few local spots. The popular ones require reservations, not surprisingly. Palo Alto and Menlo Park have lots of different types of cuisine and you can find a more exhaustive list through Yelp, Open Table, Trip Advisor. But here are some recommendations of local favorites.

Menlo Park (near Park James Hotel)

Left Bank—Casual French bistro, outdoor seating, bar menu during happy hour.
635 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park  650-473-6543  www.leftbank.com

Bistro Vida—another French bistro, also with happy hour menu.
641 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park  650-462-1686  www.bistor-vida.com

Galata Bistro—Mediterranean cuisine.
827 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park  650-325-7900  www.galatabistro.net

Oak & Violet—restaurant in Park James Hotel, our “official” reunion hotel.

Downtown Palo Alto (University Avenue area)

Evvia—Greek cuisine, my favorite in Palo Alto.
Reservations a must—can be made 60 days in advance. Lively atmosphere, excellent food, especially appetizers, lamb, and fish (valet parking)
420 Emerson  650-326-0983  https://evvia.net/#about

Tamarine—The other extremely popular restaurant—modern Vietnamese cuisine, upscale, excellent food served family-style (gluten-free menu). Communal table as well as traditional seating.
546 University Ave  650-325-8500  https://tamarinerestaurant.com

Taverna—also Greek cuisine, some outdoor seating. Informal.
800 Emerson  650-304-3840  https://tavernarestaurant.squarespace.com

Reposada—lively upscale Mexican, large bar with seating and bar menu, large variety of tequilas.
236 Hamilton  650-833-3151  http://www/reposadorestaurant.com

Osteria—small Italian restaurant with excellent food, homemade pastas as well as fish, veal, chicken dishes. A neighborhood favorite.
247 Hamilton  650-328-5700  http://www.osteriatoscanapaloalto.com

Il Fornaio—While part of a chain, very good food, large outdoor patio, wood burning ovens. Good spot for breakfast as well as lunch and dinner.
520 Cowper  650-853-3888  https://www.ilfornaio.com/paloalto

Bird Dog—very popular and trendy, innovative cuisine, like wood-grilled avocado with ponzu and wasabi.
420 Ramona  650-656-8180  https://birddogpa.com

Palo Alto Creamery—formerly the Peninsula Creamery, old fashioned diner, breakfast served all day.
566 Emerson  650 323-3131  http://www.paloaltocreamery.com