

FIRST DATE

It's the hardest to figure: You don't want to go overboard, but underwhelming him/her isn't a good idea, either. These four spots will take the jitters out of needing things to be just right.



PHIL SKINNER / Staff

Is he bored, or do I have tomato sauce in my teeth? Don't worry one bit. The variety of pasta at Figo Pasta's new Decatur location will have the two of you slurping opposite ends of the same noodle in no time.

FIGO PASTA

② Decatur (not rated)

627 E. College Ave. 404-377-2121

A new Decatur location is more proof that people just can't get enough pasta. This is the third spot for owners Mirko di Giacomantonio and Sandro Romagnoli's revolutionary concept of a pasta bar. Order at a window from a variety of house-made pastas and sauces, take a pepper mill to the table and wait for your food to show up. It's fast, easy and cheap. The pasta is always exceptional, whether it's egg noodles or mushroom-stuffed ravioli with sage and butter, but the sauces don't always measure up. The inside din at the the new location is at a high pitch, but the patio seating makes for a fun first date. And the fun-loving concept gives you something to talk about other than the weather. 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily. \$-\$

job of bringing nostalgic Southern flavors to an intown bistro menu and the warm Tuscan tones will set the mood right. Vidalia onion tart is a signature, especially good with a glass of wine plucked from a terrific list. And Hill's black-eyed pea hummus might sound a little kooky, but the flavor is there. You can stick to appetizers or share one of the entrees. Dinner: 5:30-10 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays, 5:30-11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays. \$\$\$

mel's best course). Desserts are as simple and flavorful as a seasonal sorbet. Light lunch: 12:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays. Dinner: 5:30-10:00 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays; 5:30-10:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays. \$-\$-\$

OSCAR'S

⑥ College Park ★★★

3725 Main St. 404-766-9688

Want to show that special someone that you're really in the know about dining around Atlanta? Take your date to this College Park jewel. Chef Todd Immel offers a focused sense of flavor in an appealing setting of wood-meets-brick-meets-modern urban attitude. It's safely romantic — not too familiar, but with a comfortable supper club feel to

GRACE 17:20

④ Norcross ★★

5155 Peachtree Parkway, Suite 320
678-421-1720

Don't let the verse from Matthew confuse you — this is a pretty spot, with just enough pizzazz to impress, but not enough to scare the heck out of someone. Executive chef Charles Schwab's contemporary American menu shows off his culinary training, and he knows how to use fresh, seasonal ingredients, even if the menu — and ultimately the restaurant — lack bold personality. That may be just what you want on a first date. Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. Dinner: 5:30-10 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. \$-\$-\$

WISTERIA RESTAURANT

② Inman Park ★★

471 N. Highland Ave. N.E. 404-525-3363