

GROUPON/GAYOT MAGAZINE PARTNERSHIP



GREAT FREE CORKAGE RESTAURANTS IN THE SOUTH BAY

Going out for dinner in today's economy can be a challenge but one way to keep the check in check is to dine at restaurants that don't charge a corkage fee. Since alcohol can be one of the most expensive items on a bill, these Beach town places can definitely help you stay on a budget. If you want simple but good Italian food, casual Buona Vita Trattoria on Pier Ave, the main street in Hermosa Beach is a staple in the Hermosa dining scene. Menu items are under \$20 and include large portions of various pastas, specialty pizzas, seafood, and salads. You can bring your own wine or order off their wine list. Simply decorated to feel like you're in Italy, there's a small bar in the entrance area with the larger dining room off to the side. The restaurant is so popular that it can get loud and boisterous so it's a great place for groups and parties. Metered street parking is available.

Literally just down the street right on the corner of Pier and Hermosa Ave is Zane's, located one block from the beach. Guests are served complimentary warm focaccia bread with a trio of sauces. In addition to American and Italian dishes, they also offer steaks and seafood with cioppino as their signature dish. Each party can bring one bottle of wine with no corkage fee or Zane's offers a full bar. Although modern in its look and decor, Zane's still has homey feel with an upbeat vibe. There is metered parking available or you can park in a nearby lot.

If you want to get away from the bustle of Hermosa Beach, a few miles down the road in Torrance in a residential neighborhood off of busy Hawthorne Blvd. is Aristo Café. There is no corkage fee so you can bring your own wine to this quaint, family-owned restaurant serving up fresh, homemade and delicious Mediterranean food. Simply decorated with yellow walls and cafeteria style furniture, the restaurant is known for their kabobs, baklava and complementary hummus served with warm pita bread. Open for lunch and dinner, Aristo is popular with families especially on the weekends. Parking is always available on the street or in their small lot.