Reserve your staycation supper in New Orleans this summer

Where will you go for summer vacation? What if you could go to Mexico or the French countryside, or maybe spend a little time down on the bayou, without leaving New Orleans?

With summer around the corner, we went on the prowl for the perfect dining “staycation” spots in the Crescent City. We looked for restaurants with elements that transport diners to another place or time.

In some cases, the restaurant makes a deliberate effort to be transporting (N7). In others, adherence to tradition and the passage of time create that patina (Mosca’s). And with some, the feeling of respite comes naturally from bucolic surroundings (Palmettos on the Bayou).

Remember, it’s almost patriotic to eat out during the summer in New Orleans, a town that relies on tourism for much of its economy. The steamy days during hurricane season when visitors are scarce – and locals leave town for beach vacations – can be a challenge for small businesses and their employees.

So give yourself a break, and your waiter a good tip.
Couvant
315 Magazine St., New Orleans, 504.324.5400, inside the Eliza Jane hotel.

Poisson Rouge, indeed. This it’s-so-French restaurant that dining writer Todd A. Price said would blend seamlessly into a Parisian street announces its Francophile-ness with its name, which means “smoldering.” The menu follows through in classic style: Start with pissaladière, followed by Burgundy escargot. For your main course, maybe the filet mignon au poivre or that red fish. Take that last glass of Beaujolais and finish it on the stunning, romantic patio out back. We were sad that chef Brad McDonald, who opened this delicious homage to Paris, has moved on, but the menu and the décor remain the same. Bon appetit.

Couvant’s patio. Photo by Chris Granger, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune