

[Change City](#)["Best of" Lists](#)[Food Ratings](#)[Rating System](#)[Culinary Events](#)[Restaurant News](#)

Bess Bistro

500 W. Sixth St. (San Antonio St.) [Map](#)

[Austin, TX 78701](#)

512-477-2377

Casually elegant bistro from actress Sandra Bullock.

Rating (Key)

13 /20

Price

\$\$\$\$

Cuisine

[American](#)

[French](#)

[Bistro](#)

Features

[Heart-healthy dishes](#)

[Romantic setting](#)

[Private room\(s\)](#)

[Full bar](#)

Reservations suggested

Outdoor dining

Valet parking



Open

Lunch daily, Dinner Mon.-Sat.

Attire

Casual

Payment

Credit Cards

Wine

Great Wine List

Actress and Austin-area resident Sandra Bullock opened her eagerly anticipated bistro on the edge of downtown. No surprise, it's a cozy, stylish spot housed in an historic stone building that packs in the crowds. The menu is just as warm with comforting American dishes sharing space with more contemporary French bistro fare. Start with zesty Creole shrimp Bess, which reminds us of New Orleans barbecued shrimp, or the semolina-crusted artichoke hearts with crunchy fried spinach. Don't be surprised to see old-world classics like fish 'n' chips or shepherd's pie, the latter served in a tiny cast iron [skillet](#). The deliriously rich macaroni and cheese gratin is a menu staple along with other more homey sides like caramelized cauliflower and herb spätzle with olives. Juicy Bess [steak](#) frites (marinated flank steak) with crispy pommes frites makes a substantial meal for the carnivore. We are equally impressed with the well-crafted [wine](#) list featuring many food-friendly selections.