



We've been on several cruises, and always wondered what it would be like to sign up for dinner once or twice in one of the special dining rooms. The extra price is \$25 or so per person, and people who've dined that way say the food choices and quality are better, and the experience is much more luxurious than eating in the ship's main dining room. We'll be taking a Mexican Riviera cruise from Los Angeles next month. Is it worth it to pay extra for the special dining room?

A: The cost really isn't that bad for upscale dining in a quieter, exclusive room. This may be a good idea, especially on your next cruise, which will include lots of families with small kids. The main dining room is OK, but much noisier, and the service is not as personal. Suggestion: Try it for one dinner on your Mexican Riviera cruise. You'll appreciate a one-hour peaceful time away from the ship's usual hectic activities.