



NOSH
KITCHEN BAR



nosh

Pronunciation: \nāsh\

Yiddish, To snack or eat on the sly

SPECIALTY SANDWICHES | BURGERS + FRIES
CRAFT BEER | OUTDOOR DINING

LOCAL | FRESH | ALL NATURAL | SUSTAINABLE INGREDIENTS

551 CONGRESS STREET | PORTLAND, MAINE | (207) 553-2227

Slab
SICILIAN STREETFOOD



Open Monday through Saturday 11AM to 11PM, Sunday 10AM to 8PM

Portland's Home for the Finest Food and Craft Beer

25 Preble Street | Portland, Maine

(207) 245-3088

facebook.com/slabportland



Conquering the Castle

TIQA Cafe takes
The Castle in Deering
Oaks by storm with
pan-Mediterranean flair.

BY ROBERT WITKOWSKI

The fanciful stone Castle in Deering Oaks Park is being invaded by hungry marauding hordes this summer, after many years in the wilderness. Standing sentry by the pond in Portland's crown jewel public park, **TIQA Café** houses seating for 20 indoors, with outdoor seating for over 80. Distractions such as bocce ball, horse shoes, bean-bag toss, chess tables, and live music adorn The Castle's new reign.

The rejuvenation of this 1894 landmark is due to the joint efforts of the Friends of Deering Oaks and City Hall, who began soliciting proposals this year from local businesses keen to take over the space. Competition was stiff. The five finalists included Sinful Kitchen, Arabica, Miss Portland Diner, Black Cat Coffee, and TIQA. A well-developed pitch from TIQA owners Deen Haleem and Carol Mitchell secured the project. Park director Ethan



Hipple says the pan-Mediterranean eatery impressed the panel with "its creative menu and outdoor dining concept." Haleem and Mitchell's vision has been to create "a year-round café that is warm and cozy that will attract visitors to the park."

However, converting such an iconic building has had its drawbacks. Construction restrictions prohibit the installation of hood vents that would be necessary for on-

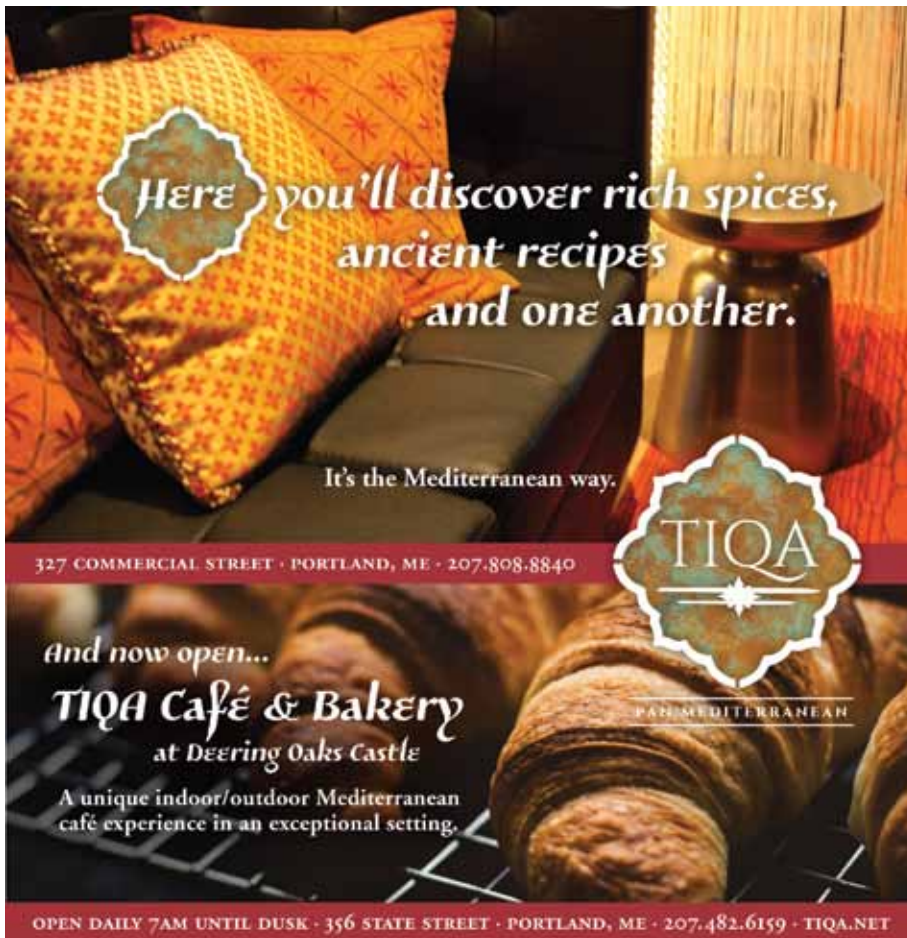
site cooking, while the relative lack of kitchen space and amenities also limits the café's production potential. Haleem found a way around this problem, thanks to the proximity of TIQA's already well-established Commercial Street kitchen. Executive chef and partner Bo Burns prepares his popular pan-Mediterranean fare daily before trucking the food down to the tiny café. The food on offer in the café reflects TIQA's new lunch menu: grilled beef kabobs slathered in tzatziki, colorful fattoush salads, and spicy gazpacho soup. The space has also been approved for a wine and beer license, so expect plenty of sun-soaked adults enjoying a cold beer in the outdoor area.

In addition, patrons can start their day with freshly made treats from TIQA's pastry chef, Rachel Ray, as well as house-made gelato and sorbet. They'll also be serving Portland's favorite fuel, Coffee By Design.

LOCAL FLAVOR

Haleem knew that “to figure out how to make such a small location work well” and be true to the historic location, he needed TIQA-builder Bill Nason of PM Construction to lead the job. Originally designed by Frederick A. Tompson (1857-1919) and built in 1894 for \$900 by volunteer laborers, The Castle is a nod to a simpler time of architectural ingenuity, making it an oasis of cool in summer and a warming shelter in winter. Its vaulted wood ceiling gives it an airy atmosphere, while the small, well-placed stained-glass windows allow light to filter in. Meanwhile, the granite and beadboard walls block the colder temperatures in winter and retain warmth from the large fireplace (now gas-fueled), creating a feel that emanates Victorian charm.

“The Castle was for public use right from the beginning,” says Friends of Deering Oaks president Anne Pringle. “There’s been food service there for a long time.” The Castle originally served as an ice-skating warming hut, meeting place, and even ticket window for swan boats—yes, just like Boston Public Garden. The addition of a large



*Here you'll discover rich spices,
ancient recipes
and one another.*

It's the Mediterranean way.

327 COMMERCIAL STREET · PORTLAND, ME · 207.808.8840

And now open...
TIQA Café & Bakery
at Deering Oaks Castle

A unique indoor/outdoor Mediterranean
café experience in an exceptional setting.

TIQA
PAN-MEDITERRANEAN

OPEN DAILY 7AM UNTIL DUSK · 356 STATE STREET · PORTLAND, ME · 207.482.6159 · TIQA.NET



Online Graduate Programs

Expand your knowledge and advance your skills!

Consider an online degree in:

- Master of Accountancy
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Health Administration

Apply today and we'll waive the application fee!

www.sjcme.edu/Portland • 800-752-4723

er adjoining building in the 1950s relegated the elegant jewel box to mere public bathrooms and storage unit for 50 years. Its larger and more modern successor was, most recently, the site of The Barking Squirrel cafe from 1995 to 1998, until “a port-a-potty fire spread to the newer building and the decision was made to focus on restoring just the Castle,” says Pringle. In 2006, The Friends of Deering Oaks community organization raised \$310,000 toward restoring the landmark to its former postcard-perfect elegance.

“Everyone wanted the building open,” Pringle says. After failed attempts to secure an eatery, due to an arduous approval process, The Greater Portland Convention & Visitors Bureau opened the space as a welcome center from 2006 to 2012. “The vision was always to have a restaurant in Deering Oaks again, not just to serve people in the park, but to actually bring people to the park.”

Haleem agrees the historic site is something special. “The Castle is so beautiful, the location and view are arguably the best in the city.” ■

TIOA cafe is open 7 a.m. until dusk.

Heirloom Consignment

Come see one of the largest furniture consignment stores in Southern Maine!

30 years experience in home furnishings

Hours
Tues-Sat 10-6
Sun 10-4



161 Ocean Street
South Portland, Me 04106
207-747-5112



LOBSTERING & LIGHTHOUSE CRUISES

1-HOUR LOBSTERING & LIGHTHOUSE TOUR • 1.5-HOUR ECO-TOUR
2-HOUR SUNSET CRUISE • 3-HOUR SUNDAY MORNING LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

CAMDEN HARBOR CRUISES
DEPARTING CAMDEN ABOARD LIVELY LADY



Learn about sea life as we haul our lobster trap • Touch tank
See lighthouses, schooners, yachts, mansions & wildlife up close
Comfortable, shaded seating • Happy Hour Cruises • Private charters available

BOOK ONLINE: www.CamdenHarborCruises.com

RESERVE BY PHONE 207.236.6672

OR VISIT OUR TICKET BOOTH AT 2 PUBLIC LANDING, CAMDEN, ME 04843



A Lot of Italian

(For Not So Much American!)

24 Years
of Delicious Tradition



4th Generation Recipes from Naples, Italy



Pasta • Pizza • Sandwiches • Beer • Wine



Visit Underground Portland
151 Middle Street
Order online or call ahead:
(207) 774-8668

Anthony'sItalianKitchen.com

ANTHONY'S

Italian
Kitchen

We won!
Abbiamo vinto!
(ahb-YAH-moh VEEN-toh)



Voted "Best Cheap Eats"
3 Years in a Row