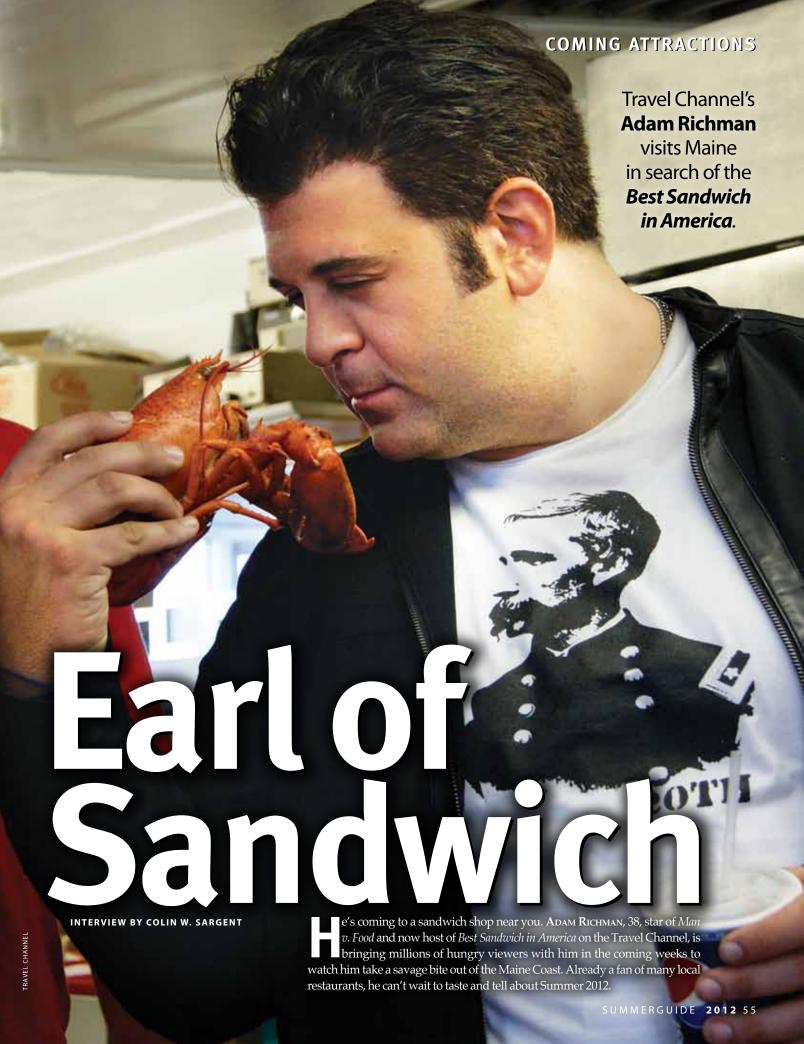
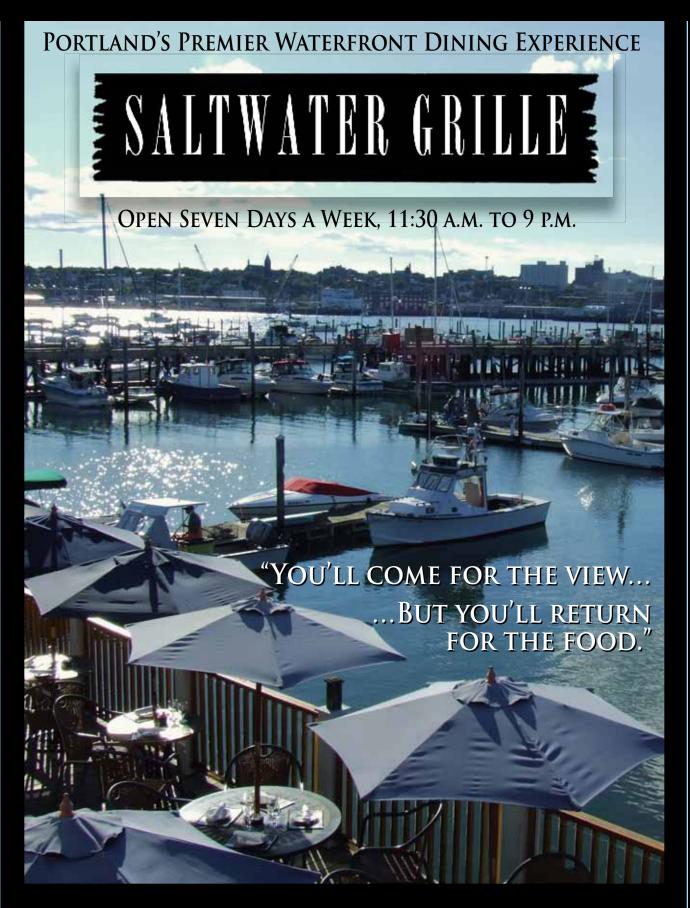
## BATTLE OF THE PATIOS! WHO HAS THE COOLEST PATIO ON CONGRESS STREET?!









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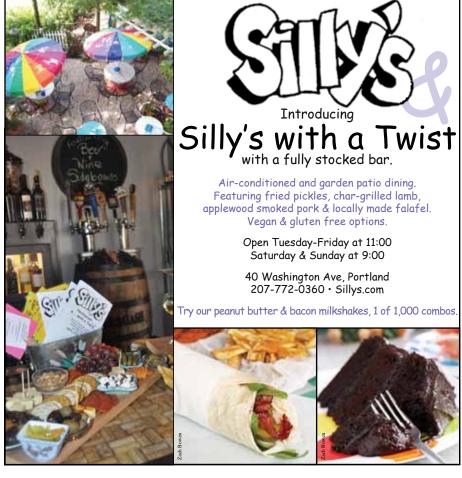
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### **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

Lights is the fact that it's a completely immersive New England experience. You see the lighthouses, the amazing coastline. You hear the foghorns and see the ships. No frills, ball-real. You get your lobster or lobster roll on a plastic tray, go outside into this beautiful scenery, grab a table, and chow down.

The great thing about the lobster roll, especially the one at The Lobster Shack, is its simplicity and purity. The meat is the



real star here. It's not overly mayonnaise[d], and for me, I was very lucky to be told by a local to put the pickles on top. As you bite down, there's a rush of flavor: sweetness, a little bit of meatiness from the lobster, [and] slight smokiness. And from the dusting of paprika, sourness of the pickles, and the crunch they impart, [it all] balances with the velvetiness of all the other ingredients. The really cool thing is that a whole new flavor develops as you chew and make this amazing new flavor in your mouth. It is at once light and heavy, savory and sweet, delicate and substantial. Inspiration is always a tough thing to claim. I'm sure there's a publication in Philly that says the inverse.

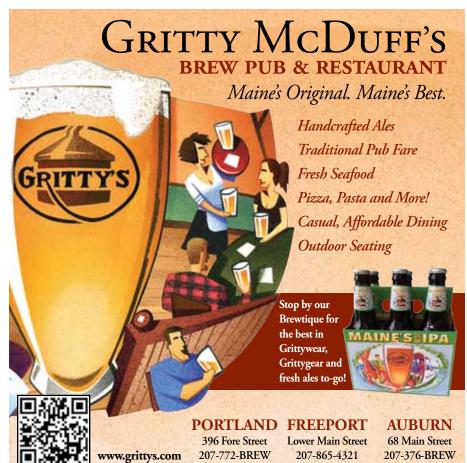
To me, it's always fun to delve into the hidden histories of foods, even if all you're



left with is more questions—either way, we have two kick-ass sandwiches now. I'm grateful for wherever they sprang from.

### Another of your local hangouts here is Nosh, where you downed the Apocalypse Now. What was that like?

Actually, though it was a great filming location, staffed by awesome people, serving stellar [food], Nosh is not one of my "local hangouts." I don't say this to distance myself...but just to clarify. They're comfort foods taken to the max and executed with considerable skill. Any place with burgers comprised of four meats, that serves bacondusted fries, tempura-fried bacon, and top









### **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

notch *ibérico* among its charcuterie is A-OK in my book.

That said, my real local hangout is the exquisite Street & Co. I love their mission, their raison d'être, their menu, staff, decor, and so much more. It is, in many ways, what a restaurant can and should be when love and honesty are the central ingredients.



New Orleans owes a debt to Maine. Cajun cuisine is descended from Acadian (Longfellow's *Evangeline* traces Acadian families who resettled in Louisiana in the mid-1700s). Do you taste an echo of Franco-Maine in their zesty po boys?

No—but there's mayo and hot sauce.

### What sandwich, or what culinary experience, has given you the most vivid nightmares after eating it?

In Singapore, at the Raffles Hotel, I ordered a prawn noodle soup dish from room service. The hotel was exquisite—why wouldn't the food be, right? I can only say that the head-on prawn—normally not something I mind—looked truly sketchy: gray, mealy in the mouth, and left an awful taste. [It] would not go away—up to and including after I puked it up like a champ.

### FRAVEL CHANNEL

### Harvest on the Harbor is October 25-27 this year. Are you going?

I'd love to visit during the festival!

I must admit that apart from the burger at Nosh and lobster rolls, I'm rather uninformed with Portland's sandwich offerings. But the chance to walk around Portland, shop at Rogues Gallery, try Fore Street or Duckfat, eat the Baby Octopus and Lobster



Fra Diavolo at Street and Co. again, put Canceaux sauce on anything, and have an ice cold Allagash White with a lobster roll is far too good to pass up.

Have Peter [Wetzel] and the good people from the Portland Harbor Hotel set me up with one of those sweet fireplace rooms with the whirlpool bath, and you might have heaven.

### Tell us about your trip to the Kennebunks.

The one thing I remember is the motorcycles [near the corner of Log Cabin Road and Route 1]. Every five seconds! We did about seven to ten takes for each on-camera read because a roaring chopper engine would rip through our take. My director—

### cape elizabeth

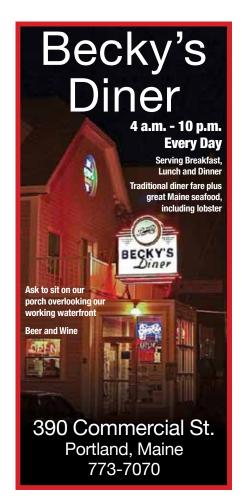
classic old school charm, sea shells and shore, farms and fog horns, light houses and lobster traps.



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### **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

defeated and exasperated-asked the crowd, "Does everyone in Maine have a motorcycle?"

### What food trends do you see on the horizon? And on that note, what's your favorite diet food?

I think the slow integration of offal has become more pervasive, as is street food from Indonesia, Africa, and the Middle East. *Huitlacoche* is certainly having its moment as "the new saffron." And smallbatch artisanal condiments and accompaniments are everywhere.

Diet food? Well, if I'm dieting, I swear by raw veggies. If we're talking reduced calorie thingies, I like 60-calorie sugar-free Jell-O pudding cups.

### Yankee dogs or Fenway Franks?

Yankee Garlic Fries! I'll never go to Fenway, ever! Well...unless it's game seven and my Yanks are in it! ■

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