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95 Ocean is open to the public and one of the best places to get lobster in Kennebunkport. Enjoy creative comfort foods and fresh Maine seafood with waterfront views and live entertainment at The Nonantum Resort. Our menu highlights freshly caught salmon, lobster, scallops and much more. The resort grows 100% organic gardens on property with herbs and vegetables. 95 Ocean Avenue Kennebunkport 967-4050 nonantumresort.com

Anthony's Italian Kitchen, offers home-made Italian cooking using the freshest ingredients, featuring favorites such as pizza, pasta, and sandwiches. Voted "Best in Portland" for three years. Dine-in and catering services on offer. Beer and wine available. Open 11-8 Mon. through Sat. 151 Middle St #5, Portland; and new location Cumberland County Courthouse, 205 Newbury St. anthonyitaliankitchen.com, 774-8668.

Barnacle Billy's, known for luxury lobster, steamed clams, large lusty drinks, barbecued chicken, homemade clam chowder & of course, the lobster roll & lobster stew. Features extensive indoor & sundeck seating where guests can enjoy both the beauty of the harbor & the ocean beyond. Perkins Cove, Ogunquit, 646-5575, barnbilly.com

Bayside American Café (formerly Bintliff's) owned and run by Joe & Diane Catoggio since 2003. The menu includes delicious items like house-made smoked salmon, corned beef hash, crab cakes, sandwiches, salads, Benedicts, and more. Come and discover why customers love Bayside American Café. Breakfast, brunch, and lunch are served daily starting at 7 a.m. 98 Portland St., Portland, 774-0005 baysideamericancafe.com.

Benkay sushi bar and Japanese restaurant is back! At our new location on 16 Middle Street, chef Ando has designed an authentic Japanese culinary experience close to Portland's waterfront. Full bar and menu including premium sushi, sashimi, and rolls. Monday-Friday: Lunch, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Dinner: 5 p.m. - close. Saturday - Sunday: 11:30 a.m. - close. 773-5555, sushiman.com

Bistro 233 has something great and affordable for everyone in the family! Come in for our Maine mussels, New York strip steak, baby back ribs, fish tacos, chicken piccata, fish & chips, jambalaya, and our Bistro Burger. No more arguing about food style when you come to Bistro 233 - we have it all! Fun, laid-back environment. 233 U.S. 1 Yarmouth 846-3633 bistro233.com

BlueFin North Atlantic Seafood in the Old Port harnesses all that Maine is, and positions it into a delicious dish. Executive Chef Tim Labonte creates new and unexpected meals using fresh, locally-caught seafood and seasonal ingredients. From breakfast through dinner and anything in-between, your next adventure may just be your next dish. 468 Fore Street 775-9090. bluefinportland.com

Bolster, Snow & Co., is located in the

Two for the Show

spectacularly reincarnated brick mansion, The Francis (formerly the Mellen E. Bolster House). With executive Chef Nicolas Verdisco at the helm, Bolster Snow provides guests with warm, genuine hospitality, gracious service, and fiercely seasonal food and drink that are representative of the Northeast Region. 747 Congress St. Portland, 772-7485, thefrancismaine.com

Bruno's Voted Portland's Best Italian Restaurant by Market Surveys of America, Bruno's offers a delicious variety of classic Italian, American, and seafood dishes—and they make all of their pasta in-house. Great sandwiches, pizza, calzones, soups, chowders, and salads. Enjoy lunch or dinner in the dining room or the Tavern. Casual dining at its best. 33 Allen Ave., 878-9511.

Bull Feeney's Authentic Irish pub & restaurant, serving delicious from-scratch sandwiches, steaks, seafood & hearty Irish fare, pouring local craft & premium imported brews, plus Maine's most extensive selection of single malt Scotch & Irish whiskeys. Live music five nights. Open 7 days, 11:30 a.m. - 1 a.m. Kitchen closes at 10 p.m. 375 Fore St. 773-7210, bullfeeney.com.

Congress Bar and Grill Serving Portlanders delicious food and beers for years! Fully embrace Portland's laid back, no frills attitude. Try Thai chili wings and the best fries in the city while vintage game shows play on-screen. Happy hour everyday 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. & 10 p.m. - 12 a.m. Late night menu Fri & Sat. Open 7 days, 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m., 617 Congress St., Portland 828-9944

The Corner Room features bright, wide-open space complemented by handcrafted woodwork. Patrons can expect a warm, comfortable atmosphere, marked by the rich aromas of house-made pastas, pizzas, antipasti and artisanal breads. Enjoy the taste of Venice in the heart of Portland, ME! 879-4747, 110 Exchange Street. Visit thecornerroomkitchenandbar.com.

El Corazon Mexican food from the heart. Authentic family recipes passed down through generations, plus an "oversized tequila selection." Try Portland's own "Marisco"—a Mexican seafood cocktail of shrimp, bay scallops, clams, octopus, and, naturally, Maine lobster. Open lunch and dinner, Mon.-Thur. 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. till 11:00 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 190 State St. Portland. elcorazonportland.com, 536-1354

Fish Bones American Grill offers creatively prepared American cuisine along the canal in the historic Bates Mill complex in the heart of downtown Lewiston. Open seven days, offering dinner Monday through Sunday, lunch Monday through Friday, and brunch on Sundays. Come get hooked at 70 Lincoln Street, Bates Mill No. 6! fishbonesmaine.com, 333-3663.

Homage Restaurant dazzles with scratch-made, hand-crafted food and cocktails. Tuck into our mushroom tarts, Mom's Fried Chicken, Steak "Wellington," Steak and Scallops, Squash and Beans, Gingersnap

It's a farm-to-table-to-theater affair at Joshua's in Wells.

BY COLIN W. SARGENT

WE'RE DRIVING DOWN Route 1 in the balmy afterglow. It's one of those precious evenings in Maine when the idea of staying in is just not on the table. We have tickets for an 8 p.m. performance at Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick, but we're in Wells, on the coast. Earlier in the day, we'd decided to check out **Joshua's**—we'd heard good things about this Revolutionary War-era tavern that's getting raves for its farm-to-table fare. But when we called for reservations, we got a message: they'd call us back within 24 hours.

Yikes. Who has 24 hours? So we just head down Route 1, figuring we'll find something along the way, when there it is, perfectly located at 1637 Post Road, right before the turnoff to Route 9 and Berwick. This 1774 Colonial landmark was purchased in 2004 for \$372,000, according to the town of Wells, and after extensive renovations was transformed into what is now Joshua's. Barbara Mather, one of the own-



ers, says the name comes from her son, Joshua Mather, who is the chef and part owner and "why we're here." Right away we can see Joshua's is in ascension, because, early on a Wednesday and early in the season, the parking lot is full.

While they have no openings until 7:30 (that isn't going to work), the bar is open with a full menu and a birds-eye maple counter. We have front-row seats with views of the drinks getting launched by a very efficient bartender, who chats as she works. It's impossible not to order the delicious fresh Strawberry Cosmo, where she scoops the luscious berries from a bowl and muddles them right in front of us. No pre-mix here. The pale rose elixir lights up the room. Looking around, we see this drink is a big hit.

After enjoying the house-made Anadama Bread (molasses, fruit, and nuts) and focaccia, we choose Peekytoe Crab Cakes and the Arugula Salad as starters. The crab cakes are toothsome, with a crunchy crust and dill aioli, but the salad, garnished with bacon, pickled onions, and shaved Parmesan dressed with a truffle-oil vinaigrette, is even better. "The arugula is grown on our farm off Bald Hill Road," the bartender tells us. "Just eight miles up the road." It's a perfect balance of salty, sweet, acid, and pungence, the arugula incredibly fresh.

We split a bottle of Argyle pinot noir from Oregon's Wil-



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DINING GUIDE

Creme Brulee, or Blondie Sundae. 9
Mechanic St. Freeport, ME. 869-5139
homagetherestaurant.com

Hurricane Restaurant New England cuisine with an international twist. Local produce and seafood, full bar, award-winning wine list, in-house dessert chef. Nurturing the seacoast palate for over 25 years. Good restaurants come and go. Great restaurants get better and better. Lunch and dinner seven days a week. Bar menu always available. 29 Dock Square, Kennebunkport, Maine. 967-9111. hurricanerestaurant.com

J's Oyster is a premier seafood destination and locals' favorite with indoor and outdoor waterfront seating on one of Portland's scenic piers. Established in 1977, J's offers classic favorites and friendly service. Coastal Living claimed J's one of "America's Best Seafood Dives 2016." Find us on Facebook. 772-4828

Maria's Ristorante is Portland's original classic Italian Restaurant. Greg and Tony Napolitano prepare classics like Zuppa de Pesce, Eggplant Parmigiana, Grilled Veal Sausages, Veal Chop Milanese, homemade cavatelli pastas, Pistachio Gelato, and Maine's Best Meatballs. Prices \$11.95 - \$22.95. Tue.-Sat. starting at 5 p.m. Catering always available. 337 Cumberland Ave. 772-9232, mariasrestaurant.com.

Pearl Kennebunk & Spat Oyster Cellar is Chef Rebecca Charles's (of Pearl Oyster Bar, New York) newest restaurant. Enjoy elevated beach food, including Charles's famous reinvention of Maine's lobster roll. Happy Hour on Wed., Thurs., and Sun. from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. for \$1 oysters, \$5 wines, and well cocktails! 27 Western Ave. Kennebunk. pearl-oysterbar.com/pearl-maine/. 204-0860

Pedro's focuses on simple yet full-flavored Mexican and Latino food. Offering tacos, burritos and an impressive array of margaritas, sangria, beer, and wine. *Especiales de la semana* (specials of the week) keep the menu varied and fresh and showcase different Latino cultures. Seasonal outdoor dining available. Open daily, 12 p.m. - 10 p.m. 181 Port Rd., Kennebunk, pedros-maine.com. 967-5544

Portland Lobster Company Experience "Maine's Best Lobster Roll," lobster dinners, steamers, fried claims, chowder, and more before visiting our outdoor bar for an ice-cold local beer or a glass of fine wine. Then relax on our deck overlooking the gorgeous Portland Harbor while listening to daily live music. 180 Commercial Street, 775-2112 portlandlobstercompany.com

Ricetta's Brick Oven Ristorante, a Maine Italian favorite since 1989. Experience a modern, family-friendly atmosphere with a versatile menu filled with award-winning brick oven pizzas, pasta, grill, and Italian entrees, using as many locally sourced ingredients as possible, plus gluten-free options. Sunday - Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. 240 U.S Route 1, Falmouth. 781-3100.

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

lamette Valley, a yummy match for our generous five-ribbed Rack of Lamb au jus, with mustard crust and mushroom stuffing; fiddleheads; and truffled mashed potatoes.

We turn to our perfectly cooked Swordfish (with fiddleheads, broccoli, asparagus, and mashed potatoes) and wonder which dish is better, deciding to return for another shot of the Rack of Lamb after the first chill of fall.

The cost for drinks, wine, two appetizers, and two entrees is \$150. We take our time enjoying our meal, because all we have to do is turn right on Route 9, relax, and drive. What about dessert? We'll get to that.

We reach **Hackmatack Playhouse** at twilight and find our seats. Tonight, it's *Lend Me A Tenor*. Between the acts, they serve fresh Strawberry Shortcake as part of a longtime mystical tradition. "The strawberries were picked this morning," we're told. They're served on flaky biscuits with a double dollop of whipped cream. Under the stars. ■


Joshua's, 1637 Post Rd., Wells. Open 7 days,
5 - 10 p.m. 646-3355.

DINING GUIDE

Rivalries Sports Pub & Grill Now with two fun and comfortable upscale sports bar locations. Known for great casual pub food, Rivalries' menu has something for everyone. And, with 30+ HD TVs and every major pro and college sports package, you won't miss a game! Located at 10 Cotton Street in Portland (774-6044) and 2 Hat Trick Drive, just off I-295 in Falmouth (747-4020), rivalriesmaine.com

Tally's Kitchen at Bayside, located on 84 Marginal Way in Portland, is a unique breakfast and lunch boutique. Life-long Portlander Julie Taliento Walsh builds on her reputation for quality and affordable classic fare with vegetarian & gluten-free options served in a friendly setting that feels like home. House made baked goods, artisan sandwiches, soups, salads, freshly brewed coffee, and blackboard specials that change daily. Breakfast and lunch: Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. until 3 p.m., 207-400-2533, tallyskitchen.com

Twenty Milk Street welcomes diners with warm, intimate décor and a lovely brick fireplace. Located in the Historic Portland Regency Hotel, we offer Sunday brunch, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, specializing in modern American dishes with a New England flourish. We're proud to serve local produce, seafood and beef, pork, chicken, and turkey from our own farm! 774-4200.



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