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DINING GUIDE

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. anthonyssitaliankitchen.com, 774-8668.

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.

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.

Bueno Loco offers a unique Mexican experience in Falmouth. We use only the freshest ingredients and make the *best* house-infused margaritas! Open daily for lunch and dinner. Happy hour 4-6 p.m.. Live music Thursdays 6-9 pm. Kids' menu. Dine in or take out. Plenty of free parking! View our full menu at buenoloco.net. 240 U.S. Rt. 1, Falmouth, 619-7057.

Bull Feeney's Authentic Irish pub & restaurant, serving delicious from-scratch sandwiches, steaks, seafood & hearty Irish fare, pouring local craft & premium imported brews, as well as 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., Old Port, 773-7210, bullfeeney.com.

DiMillo's Now through December, relax and enjoy Head Chef Melissa Bouchard's masterful creations. Every day, she offers something new and delicious. Try our Early Dinner Specials, Monday-Friday or our wonderful Port Side Lounge, Portland's getaway for grown-ups. Happy Hour includes special menu Monday-Friday, 4-7p.m. Open daily at 11a.m., Commercial St., Old Port. Always FREE PARKING while aboard. 772-2216.

Eve's at the Garden, an oasis of calm and great food in the Old Port. Perfect for meetings and special occasions. Ingredients from Maine's waters and farms. The seasonal Ice Bar is ideal for outdoor dining. Happy Hour Mon. - Fri.; free valet parking. Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dinner 5-9:30 p.m. 468 Fore St., Portland, 775-9090, evesatthegarden.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



West End Story

A neighborhood staple for nearly a decade, **Caiola's** continues to offer Italian intimacy under new ownership.

BY DIANE HUDSON



PHOTOS BY COREY TEMPLETON

WE ARRIVE AT Caiola's on a weekday night in the West End. Immediately we're enveloped by its relaxed, welcoming atmosphere, lively and full of patrons.

With great delight we take in a colorful, wall-sized painting, Abby Shahn's "Night Quilt" that welcomes diners with vibrant color into this charming neighborhood hideaway. Our server, Wren, who worked with Caiola's former co-owners Lisa Vaccaro and chef Abby Harmon prior to its being sold to Damian Sansonetti and Ilma Lopez (who also own the Piccolo on 111 Middle Street) in June 2016, tells us the painting belongs to Harmon and will eventually be reunited with her. We look forward to seeing what Sansonetti

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DINING GUIDE

one of "America's Best Seafood Dives 2016." Find us on Facebook. 772-4828

Kon Asian Bistro Steakhouse & Sushi Bar serves Asian cuisine with modern flair. Japanese, Sushi, Thai, Chinese, or hibachi tables. Private party rooms accommodates groups from business meetings to birthday parties. Choose fresh, delicious items prepared before your table. Family friendly; open Mon.-Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. to 11 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. 874-0000, konasianbistrome.com.

Maria's Ristorante is Portland's original classic Italian Restaurant. Greg and Tony Napolitano are always in house preparing classics like Zuppa de Pesce, Eggplant Parmigian, Grilled Veal Sausages, Veal Chop Milanese, homemade cavatelli pastas, Pistachio Gelato, Limoncello Cake, 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.

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, 967-5544, pedrosmaine.com.

Rivalries Sports Pub & Grill An upscale sports bar serving creative pub food in a fun and comfortable atmosphere. Known for some of Portland's best casual 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 in Portland's historic Old Port. 774-6044, rivalriesmaine.com

Solo Italiano Traditional northern Italian cuisine mixes Maine freshness with Genovese flavor from international chef Paolo Laboa. Enjoy the crudo bar or the daily changing menu. Included in *Food & Wine Magazine's* 2016 "What to Do in Portland, ME." Open daily 5 p.m.-10 p.m. 100 Commercial Street Portland, 780-0227, soloitalianorestaurant.com

*reservations recommended

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RESTAURANT REVIEW



and Lopez choose to take its place.

We peruse the eclectic menu, starting with the many reasonably priced drinks. We decide on Geary's IPA (\$4.50) for him and the Classic Negroni (\$10) for me. The perfectly balanced blend of gin, Campari, and sweet vermouth with an orange twist proves a pleasing accompaniment to our first course—tender Louisiana shrimp atop whole-grain toast, ricotta, marinated celery, and fresh watercress (\$10). A very generous appetizer.

Next up is the yellowfin tuna (\$26), a plateful of perfection. The slightly seared medallions melt in our mouths, along with an enticing concoction of cauliflower, baby artichoke, watermelon radishes, and brown butter with smoked paprika oil. "This is the best fish I think I've ever had," declares my companion. The friendly Wren even chats about how we might prepare this ourselves at home.

Proceeding with the more robust "porterhouse" lamb loin (\$26), we find another winner. Garnished with rosemary, the tender lamb chops are served upon a bed of Maine heirloom beans with sweet local carrots. The entree is accented by sips of Super Tuscan Sangiovese (\$34). The wine list here will get your Maine winter travel dreams in gear, conjuring visions of sun-baked vineyards in Greece, Portugal, Spain, and Italy.

But wait. Why leave when you can savor one of the most exquisitely simple desserts imaginable? The *crème de la crème* of cream puffs (\$8) is their *pâte à choux* pastry filled with rich vanilla cream and topped with exquisite salted caramel. All this and an adjoining parking lot—as rare as gold dust in Portland. Truly a dream come true. ■

Caiola's, 58 Pine St, Portland. Open daily. Mon.-Tues. 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Wed.-Sat. 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 772-1110 or caiolas.com.

DIANE HUDSON

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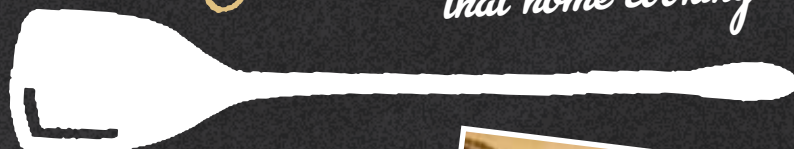
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