

## Authentic Mexican Restaurant & Bar Locally Owned and Family Operated







Daily Lunch & Happy Hour Specials Fresh Guacamole • Live Latin Music • Functions Catering • Delivery • Kids Eat Free on Sundays

147 WESTERN AVE., SOUTH PORTLAND • 773-8851

## **DINING GUIDE**

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) has been owned and run by Joe & Diane Catoggio since 2003. Their craveable menu includes simple to decadently delicious items like housemade smoked salmon, corned beef hash, crab cakes, sandwiches, salads, Benedicts, and more. Come enjoy the food and drinks, and discover why customers love Bayside American Café. Breakfast, brunch, and lunch are served daily starting at 7am. 774-0005 . 98 Portland St., Portland, baysideamericancafe.com.

**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 pm. 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.

**Brea Lu Cafe** has been serving up breakfast & lunch for 25 years! Favorite menu choices include 12 speciality omelettes, build-your-own breakfast burritos, Belgian waffles with fruit, eggs Benedict & homemade corned beef hash. Enjoy a pint sized bloody Mary, mimosa, or Irish coffee while you feast on your favorite breakfast. Open daily, 7am-2pm. 428 Forest Ave., Portland, 772-9202.

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, as well as Maine's most extensive selection of single malt Scotch & Irish whiskeys. Live music five nights. Open 7 days, 11:30am-1am. Kitchen closes at 10pm. 375 Fore St., Old Port, 773-7210, bullfeeneys.com

**Crooners & Cocktails** Dine in style surrounded by the sounds of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin at Portland's only supper club throwback. Enjoy a high energy atmosphere with traditional American cuisine, classic cocktails, and great music celebrating a classic era. We are open 6 days a week for dinner Tues.-Sat. 4pm-1am and Sunday brunch 10am-4pm. 90 Exchange St., Portland. 536-0469, croonersandcocktails.com

**DiMillo's** If you haven't tried our Head Chef Melissa Bouchard's fabulous dishes, maybe it's time you stopped in to DiMIllo's to taste what you've been missing! Happy Hour is from 4 to 7pm, Monday thru Friday in our Port Side Lounge, Portland's getaway for grown-ups. Open every day at 11am, Commercial St., Old Port, 772-2216. Always FREE PARKING while aboard.

**El Rodeo**, an incredibly authentic Mexican Restaurant and Bar, is locally-owned and familyoperated at their convenient South Portland

## **RESTAURANT REVIEW** Diane Hudson

location. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. Tableside guacamole, sizzling fajitas, delicious margaritas, and live Latin music are to be enjoyed. See Facebook for daily specials. 147 Western Ave., South Portland, 773-8851

**Eve's at the Garden**, an oasis of calm and great food in the middle of the Old Port. The perfect spot for meetings, special occasions, and a cocktail. Ingredients from Maine's waters and farms: jumbo scallops, natural, sustainable pork, beef, fish, and shellfish, and Maine lobster. Home to the annual Ice Bar, Eve's garden is perfect for outdoor dining in season. Happy Hour Mon. - Fri.; free valet parking. Lunch 11:30am-2pm, Dinner 5-9:30 pm. 468 Fore St., Portland, 775-9090, evesatthegarden.com

Hurricane Restaurant is now open for the season. Celebrating our 25th year of "Nurturing the seacoast palate." Dinner seven nights a week and lunch weekends and Mondays through Memorial Day. Sunday brunch. Wine specials all day Wednesdays. Buck-a-Shuck oysters on Sunday nights. 29 Dock Square, Kennebunkport. 967-9111, www.hurricanerestaurant.com

Kon Asian Bistro Steakhouse & Sushi Bar is upscale Asian with modern flair. Japanese, Sushi, Thai, Chinese–or try our hibachi tables. Our private party room accommodates groups from business meetings to birthday parties. Choose fresh, delicious items and enjoy our entertaining chefs preparing your meal in front of you. Family friendly; open Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-10pm, Fri. to 11pm, Sat. 1pm-11:00pm, Sun. 11:30am-9:30pm. 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 5pm. 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, 12pm-10pm. 181 Port Rd., Kennebunk, 967-5544, pedrosmaine.com

**Pier 77 & The Ramp Bar & Grill** are owned & managed by Kate & Chef Peter Morency. Pier 77 has a formal dining room with stunning views of Cape Porpoise Harbor & live music each weekend, while the Ramp is more casual, with its own bar menu at hard-to-beat prices. Open year-round. 77 Pier Rd., Kennebunkport, 967-8500, pier77restaurant.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! Conveniently located in Portland's Historic Old Port District. 774-6044, rivalriesmaine.com

\*reservations recommended



## $\underset{\text{in the Woodford 'Hood}}{All Good}$

Delicious food and a friendly neighborhood vibe transform a landmark intersection.

aving long been nonplussed by the mid-century-mod "chalet" smack dab in the middle of Woodford's Corner, we are amazed to be driving toward a beautifully lit jewel box inside which graceful figures appear to be dancing.

Inside **Woodford Food & Beverage**, the magic continues. Streetlights and headlights flicker through semi-closed Venetian blinds, creating an ecstasy of colors as cars float silently by, while vinyl records spin joyfully on a turn-table at the hostess station—this place rocks!

Roasted beet salad (\$9)-with the freshest tangy mixed greens and tender, juicy beets-is garnished with goat cheese mousse, a divinely frothy affair. It's all enhanced by the textures and tastes of pistachios and dried cherries.

Although one could easily order some splendid smaller dishes to make up a mealroasted oysters (market), mussels and fries (\$11), stuffed clams (\$6), classic deviled eggs (\$8)-we go full monty. Braised Pork Shank (\$21) is falling-off-the-bone wonderful, set on top of a brilliantly crafted white bean stew with luscious baby carrots, rosemary, thyme, caramelized onions, bacon, and braised greens. Plenty to takeaway home. The star of the evening, though, is the Stuffed Lobster (\$24)! This classic, prepared by chef Courtney Loreg (Fore Street, Bresca, Aurora Provisions) is a charming nod to bygone Portland restaurateur Donald Valle, whose Valle's steak-and-lobster chain got its start at this very spot in 1933. But Loreg's rendition–poached whole lobster accompanied by celery root puree, roasted tomatoes, toasted challah, and a stunning dollop of duchess potatoes–brings a new level of sophistication. It's a dream dish, presently available only on Wednesdays as the *plat du jour*.

Desserts, too, are a cut above (\$8). Memories are made of such things as a bowlful of creamy vanilla panna cotta sporting cranberry coulis and white-pepper shortbread cookies-or a piping hot brownie topped with local Little Bee's ice cream, caramel, and praline pecans.

This crossroads destination is truly a bright new gem. ■

Woodford Food & Beverage, 660 Forest Ave., Portland. Sun, Mon, Wed. & Thurs., 5-10 p.m. ; Fri & Sat., 5-11 p.m. woodfordfb.com, 200-8503.