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RESTAURANT REVIEW

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 house-made 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 7 a.m. 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.

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, 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m. Kitchen closes at 10 p.m. 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. 4 p.m.-1 a.m. and Sunday brunch 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 90 Exchange St., Portland. 536-0469, croonersandcocktails.com

DiMillo's Now's the time to enjoy everything DiMillo's has to offer: fabulous dishes prepared by Head Chef, Melissa Bouchard, voted one of Maine's Chef's of the Year, plus our lobster and seafood specials, our delicious steaks and Italian dinners and outside dining topside and portside. Open every

**Scratch-made
Nice People
Totally Authentic**



773.7210 375 FORE STREET IN THE OLD PORT
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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 family-operated at their convenient South Portland 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 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dinner 5-9:30 pm. 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 one of "America's Best Seafood Dives 2016." Find us on Facebook. 772-4828

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. 11:30 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

Pier 77 & The Ramp Bar & Grill 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



The Italian Job

The mission: Create a *ristorante raffinato* in a former waterfront warehouse. Check.

SLIDING INTO **Solo Italiano** early on a weeknight, we're lucky to secure a table amid the bustle. Delicious portents—diners obviously adore this place! The jovial atmosphere makes the vast room feel less cavernous and more intimate, helped by the presence of the attractive new raw bar that juts into the dining area.

Watching the skilled crudo chefs at work is all the encouragement we need to order the Carpaccio di Capesante (\$12), thin-sliced local scallops basking in basil oil and tomato coulis, topped with a dusting of fennel pollen. The taste is fresh, luxurious, and downright unique. We follow with Antipasti, an Italian farm board with robiola cheese, coppa, sopressata, speck, finocchiona, salami di tartufo, wild boar, rabbit liver pate, and guanciale. We'd return for this plate again and again but for the menu changing almost daily. Next, we try Vitello Tonnato (\$14), braised veal bathed in velvety tomato sauce (made with tuna, though you'd never guess), paired with baby kale,

extra virgin olive oil, and sea salt. The meat is as tender as it gets. You won't want to miss out on the fresh house-made pastas or the prize-winning pesto—a recipe made in collaboration with Paolo Laboa, winner of the World Pesto Championship. We pair both of these by ordering the Pansotti alle Noci (\$18), meaty tortellini stuffed with ricotta, walnuts, spinach, chard, kale, and borage, and topped with a spell-binding walnut pesto.

The enjoyment doesn't end with the main course (treats on the drinks menu include the Vesper, a concoction of gin, vodka, and kina, \$12). For dessert we choose Baci Di Dama, "lady's kisses." These delicate hazelnut cookies jolted by a layer of dark chocolate are a fitting ending to a delightful repast. *Grazie* Solo Italiano—may your reign on 100 Commercial Street be long! ■

Solo Italiano, 100 Commercial Street, Portland.
Monday through Sunday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Visit soloitalianorestaurant.com, 780-0227.