

wings in town. Discover where the natives go when they're restless! Every day 11:30am-11:30pm. 540 Forest Ave., in the Woodfords area of Portland, 772-0300, greatlostbear.com

Hurricane Restaurant features the finest seafood and New England cooking on Maine's coast. Serving lunch and dinner seven days a week. Sunday Brunch 'til 3:30 p.m. Discover our award-winning wine list, enjoy \$10 off every bottle of wine on Wednesdays. Wicked good house-made pastries, signature cocktails, and extraordinary five-star New England cuisine. Reservations strongly suggested. Dock Square, Kennebunkport, 207-967-9111, 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. www.mariasrestaurant.com

Miss Portland Diner, Portland's only landmark diner serving classic, homemade comfort food. Open daily at 7:00 am serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Beer, wine and liquor. Located at 140 Marginal Way, Portland, 210-6673, missportlanddiner.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, 12-10. 181 Port Rd., Kennebunk, 967-5544, pedrosmaine.com

Ocean at Cape Arundel Inn & Resort With outstanding 180-degree water views, Ocean is perfect for a memorable meal or bites at the bar. Executive Chef Pierre Gignac offers Ocean inspired fine cuisine, beautifully presented, and enhanced by the fresh sea air and stunning ambiance. Open year round. 208 Ocean Ave., Kennebunkport, 967-4015, capearundelinn.com/dining

One Dock Award-winning One Dock at the Kennebunkport Inn serves native Maine comfort food classics with an upscale twist, plus a selection of small plates. Guests can enjoy live music on weekends, daily Happy Hour specials and outdoor dining on the patio and terrace throughout summer. Open year round. One Dock Square, Kennebunkport, 967-2621, onedock.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 *

The Tides Beach Club Coastal chic ambiance overlooking Goose Rocks Beach. Local seafood is the focal point: Maine lobster roll with drawn butter or herbed mayo; crispy fried clams with house tartar; marinated grilled tuna with house-made kimchee, soba noodles, and wasabi. Specialty cocktails with fresh local juices and herbs, artisanal beers, and an extensive wine list. Open May-Oct. 254 Goose Rocks Rd., Kennebunkport, 967-3757, tidesbeachclubmaine.com

*reservations recommended



Seaside Surprises

Spectacular seafood sparkles at this Midcoast gem.

The **Boathouse Bistro Tapas Bar & Restaurant** in Boothbay Harbor is neither a typical bistro nor a tapas bar. For one thing, the menu lists more than 80 dishes. Prices are modest to moderate—not typical in a popular Maine coastal town.

The atmosphere and staff are friendly and fun. You climb to the top floor to sit under red patio umbrellas and enjoy views of village and harbor, or slip inside to duck the fog or wind. Either way, you're in a Vacationland movie set.

Hungry and drawn to the Dock Purged Maine Steamers for \$15 a pound, soaked in crates in the “clean waters of the Damariscotta River to release grit and sand,” I'm convinced instead to share the scallops with blackberry gastrique (\$11). Luscious and large, three of the most succulent bivalves in my recent memory are grilled to perfection. The slightly tart blackberry concoction works wonderfully topped by candied ginger and a crispy fried wonton set each. Brilliant.

Shellfish reigns here. The region is known for oysters, and what many connoisseurs consider to be *the* best (Glidden Point) are served here with tequila lime mignonette (\$3.50 each) or baked with crabmeat and sauteed leeks, crowned with cheddar cheese. Or try little-

necks, 10 of them, steamed with wine, garlic, cherry tomatoes, and herbs (\$15).

But we're also drawn to the classic surf and turf—grilled New York strip with grilled lobster tail (\$32). Or should we take flight? The duck breast with orange Grand Marnier demi (\$22) is juicy and pink inside, with scalloped potatoes and tender, buttery broccoli rabe.

We can't resist grilled lamb chops, medium rare as ordered, rubbed with Indian spices and accompanied by a zingy mango salsa and cooling cucumber yogurt sauce (\$32). This is also available as a “Hot Tapa,” a smaller portion for \$15.

Desserts (\$7) are not to be skipped. *Crème brûlée* arrives as a trio of flavors: Godiva chocolate, Frangelica, and Baileys Irish Cream. The blood-orange cheesecake is velvety smooth and oh-so-good.

Boathouse Bistro is not your typical anything. Its surprises make it an evening star. ■

Boathouse Bistro Tapas Bar & Restaurant, 12 The By-Way, Boothbay Harbor. Open 7 days, 11am-9pm. 633-0400 theboat-housebistro.com



Spicy shrimp gazpacho martini.