



Photography: Justine Johnson

"Cooking is like love. It should be entered into with abandon or not at all!" -Harriet van Horne

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**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 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 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.

**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** 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 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 11:30am-2pm, Dinner 5-9:30 pm. 468 Fore St., Portland, 775-9090, [evesatthegarden.com](http://evesatthegarden.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://rivalriesmaine.com)

\*reservations recommended

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# Weighing In

Sampling the freshest new arrival in the Old Port.

Walking into **Scales** on a sunny summer evening is a dazzling experience. Light streams across the expansive dining space (with seating for over 150) and bar area from floor-to-ceiling paneled windows, framing a classic working pier. These are not glitzy pleasure boats you see from your table—these are working vessels, responsible for delivering the very morsels you are about to eat.

The wharf's newest arrival is a joint venture between celebrated chef Sam Hayward and his partners, Dana Street and Victor Leon. The trio's other eateries include the highly lauded Fore Street, Street & Co., and Standard Baking. With these credentials, our expectations are high.

Sipping on an aromatic Tom Cat Martini (\$12) and robust Geary's Hampshire Ale (\$4), we dive into a huge cast-iron pot filled to the brim with the freshest mussels (\$12). From Bangs Island, these plump little devils bask in a delightful lemon-dill buttermilk broth, topped with lightly toasted croutons—the perfect appetizer.

Craving a fried dish, we choose to bypass the appealing, well-stocked raw bar. The menu boasts a mouth-watering array of fried *fruits de mer*: oysters, Maine clams, squid, and traditional fish & chips. Hoping not to spoil our appetite, we order the smaller serving of fried oysters (\$16/\$24). The chipotle dipping sauce,

balanced by a bed of lightly dressed mixed greens, is reason enough to gorge on this dish. If you're looking for a piled-up plate of greasy fried fare, then Scales is not the place for you: think quality over quantity.

With great difficulty, as there is much to desire, I select the rotating Market Special (\$28). We are not disappointed; arriving at the table in another cast-iron skillet is some of the freshest cod we've ever tasted. The filet, velvety in texture, comes grilled and lightly coated in buttery bread crumbs, accompanied by salty braised kale and a Parker House roll—a dish that is at once nostalgic and innovative. We pair it with another vintage favorite, baked beans. True to our memories, the delectable legumes are lovingly baked overnight, and accompanied with house-made sausage. At \$7, it's one heck of a bargain. For \$3 extra, don't skip the side of griddled brown bread.

Complete your nostalgic sojourn with Indian Pudding (\$8.50) generous enough for sharing, though one of you is likely to want it all! We end the meal watching the last of the fishing boats tie up, painting reflections in the slightly moving water as the skies grow darker. It's Gatsby hour now in Portland harbor—time to go home, dear. ■

**Scales, 68 Commercial St, Portland. Mon-Sun., 5.30-10 p.m. [www.scalesrestaurant.com](http://www.scalesrestaurant.com) 805-0444**