

Pedro's

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Happy Hour 3pm-6pm Daily - Closed Sundays
181 Port Road, Kennebunk
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To Keep Your Winter Warm & Savory

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101 Ocean Street, South Portland

DINING GUIDE

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.

Benkay sushi bar and Japanese restaurant is back! At our new location on 16 Middle Street, chef Ando has designed an authentic Japanese culinary experience close to Portland's waterfront. Full bar and menu including premium sushi, sashimi, and rolls. Monday-Friday: Lunch, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Dinner: 5 p.m. - close. Saturday - Sunday: 11:30 a.m. - close. 773-5555, sushiman.com.

Bistro 233 has something great and affordable for everyone in the family! Come in for our Maine mussels, New York strip steak, baby back ribs, fish tacos, chicken piccata, fish & chips, jambalaya, and our Bistro Burger. No more arguing about food style when you come to Bistro 233—we have it all! Fun, laid-back environment. 233 U.S. 1 Yarmouth. 846-3633, bistro233.com.

BlueFin North Atlantic Seafood in the heart of the Old Port district offers the quintessential Maine dining experience. Executive Chef Gil Plaster creates classic and contemporary dishes using fresh, locally-caught seafood and seasonal ingredients. Enjoy breakfast, lunch, dinner or your favorite cocktail in comfortable elegance or find a table out on the patio by the fire pit. 468 Fore Street 775-9090. bluefinportland.com

Boone's Fish House & Oyster Room menu teems with native seafood like fresh Maine lobster steamed over rockweed, a variety of oysters and wood-grilled fish, as well as steaks and chops. Then there's Boone's signature dish: the baked stuffed lobster. Alexander Boone invented the baked stuffed lobster when he opened Boone's right here on the Portland Waterfront in 1898. 774-5725 86 Commercial St., Portland www.boonesfishhouse.com

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

Congress Bar and Grill, serving Portlanders delicious food & beers for years! Fully embrace Portland's laid-back, no frills attitude. Try Thai chili wings and the best fries in the city while vintage game shows play on-screen. Happy hour everyday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. & 10 p.m. - 12 a.m. Late night menu Fri & Sat. Open 7 days, 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m., 617 Congress St., Portland. 828-9944.

El Corazon, Mexican food from the heart. Authentic family recipes passed down



We Found Magic at The Lost Fire

The perfect **escape** from winter.

BY COLIN W. SARGENT

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN Cape Porpoise. We're among a swarm of diners at **The Lost Fire Patagonian Grill and Bar**. Located on 62 Mills Road (after you pass frozen Nunan's Lobster hut on your way to Goose Rocks, you'll see it on your left), this rock-in' bar and Argentinian-style (with a Mediterranean twist) steakhouse, est. 2018, is open all winter, live, packed, and aflame. The décor is dressy steampunk: distressed and reclaimed wood, copper, tin, cast iron, and crystal. The curved ceilings and curved booths suggest a train station. We feel like this place is going somewhere. The music sounds like Sade is about to walk in. And you can hear the steaks sizzling.

It's the brainchild of chef/restaurateur Germán Lucarelli, who comes to the Kennebunks by way of his native Argentina, where he started cooking as a boy. He's dazzled diners everywhere from Buenos Aires to Beirut, Istanbul, London, Paris, and New York. He's also the guiding light of Ports of Italy on the Kennebunk River.

Clearly, he's a smooth operator.

Since so many hungry customers have found their way here on a Friday night (I recognize Arundel Yacht Club members laughing and digging in, even my dogs' vet), we ask our server what's lost about The Lost Fire. "It's the lost art of Argentinian cooking with local white oak," he says.

Lucarelli credits instruction from his grandmother Maria Elena for his very first turns at the flame for charcoal and char-grilling artistry.

There are rooms and rooms here: some family-sized, some grand. As the wait staff bustles in and out, the kitchen doors swing open to show delicious flames that are even more dramatic from the bar (replete with three giant sports TVs filled with moving human figures).

We start with glasses of Balbo Orion Rose of Malbec (\$8). Perfect. Next, we split (and they're nice about this) the Shrimp and Avocado Salad (\$15): Boston bib lettuce, delicious grilled shrimp, hearts of palm, avocado, and Marie Rose dressing.

The Marie Rose is a little like Thousand Island, but completely different, too. "Mayo, ketchup, hot sauce, lemon juice, and a sprinkling of finely diced parsley."

From the Argentinian Grill, we order the Long Short Rib (\$36), long bone center-cut black Angus short rib, with a side of roasted carrots. Wow. From the Charcoal Spit, we dive into the Grilled Ground Lamb Kebab with Garlic (\$22) that comes with a Greek salad. From the Charcoal Oven, we order the Roasted Eggplant (\$9). And this is before the Andes-sized mountain of bread pudding we split before walking into the large parking lot below a drift of stars.

I like the French proverb: "What you'll lose in the fire, you'll find in the ashes," a more romantic phrasing of the Theory of Conservation of Matter and Energy. Because winter didn't actually vanish when entered The Lost Fire—it just seemed that way. ■

The Lost Fire, Weds.-Fri. 5-9 p.m., Sat. 5-10 p.m., Sun. 5-9 p.m.
62 Mills Rd., Kennebunkport; 204-0123; thelostfire.com.



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DINING GUIDE

through generations, plus an "oversized tequila selection." Try Portland's own "Marisco"—a Mexican seafood cocktail of shrimp, bay scallops, clams, octopus, and, naturally, Maine lobster. Open lunch and dinner, Mon.-Thur. 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. till 11:00 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 190 State St. Portland. elcorazonportland.com, 536-1354.

Fish Bones American Grill offers creatively prepared American cuisine along the canal in the historic Bates Mill complex in the heart of downtown Lewiston. Open seven days, offering dinner Monday through Sunday, lunch Monday through Friday, and brunch on Sundays. Come get hooked at 70 Lincoln Street, Bates Mill No. 6! fishbonesmaine.com, 333-3663.

Flatbread Company Portland, Tucked between two wharves on Portland's waterfront, this family-friendly restaurant features signature pizzas plus weekly carne and veggie specials—all made with local ingredients, baked in a wood-fired, clay oven. Everything is homemade, organic, and nitrate-free. Twenty local drafts and cocktails featuring all-local breweries and distilleries. Flatbread has a perfect waterside, relaxed atmosphere for any occasion. 72 Commercial St., 772-8777, flatbreadcompany.com/portland.

Homage Restaurant dazzles with scratch-made, hand-crafted food and cocktails. Tuck into our mushroom tarts, Mom's Fried Chicken, Steak "Wellington," Steak and Scallops, Squash and Beans, Gingersnap Creme Brulee, or Blondie Sundae. 9 Mechanic St. Freeport, ME. 869-5139 homagetherestaurant.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 as one of "America's Best Seafood Dives 2016." 722-4828.

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. 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. 874-0000 www.konhibachi.com

Maria's Ristorante is Portland's original classic Italian Restaurant. Greg and Tony Napolitano prepare classics like Zuppa de Pesce, Eggplant Parmigiana, Grilled Veal Sausages, Veal Chop Milanese, homemade cavatelli pastas, Pistachio Gelato, 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

Riding around on a magic carpet might be fun...
But not as much fun as eating at



*Barbara Eden
"Jeannie"*

3 Happy
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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, pedrosmaine.com. 967-5544.

Ricetta's Brick Oven Ristorante, a Maine Italian favorite since 1989. Experience a modern, family-friendly atmosphere with a versatile menu filled with award-winning brick oven pizzas, pasta, grill, and Italian entrees, using as many locally sourced ingredients as possible, plus gluten-free options. Sunday - Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. 240 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. 781-3100.

Rivalries Sports Pub & Grill Now with two fun and comfortable upscale sports bar locations. Known for great casual pub 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 at 10 Cotton Street in Portland. (774-6044). And 2 Hat Trick Drive, just off I-295 in Falmouth (747-4020), rivalriesmaine.com.

Tally's Kitchen at Bayside, located on 84 Marginal Way in Portland, is a unique breakfast and lunch boutique. Life-long Portlander Julie Taliento Walsh builds on her reputation for quality and affordable classic fare with vegetarian & gluten-free options served in a friendly setting that feels like home. House made baked goods, artisan sandwiches, soups, salads, freshly brewed coffee, and blackboard specials that change daily. Breakfast and lunch: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. 207-400-2533, tallyskitchen.com.

Twenty Milk Street welcomes diners with warm, intimate décor and a lovely brick fireplace. Located in the Historic Portland Regency Hotel, we offer Sunday brunch, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, specializing in modern American dishes with a New England flourish. We're proud to serve local produce, seafood and beef, pork, chicken, and turkey from our own farm! 774-4200.

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EVER FORWARD


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Let's keep moving forward together!



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