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2012 NEVER TASTED SO GOOD

A Foodie’s Guide To Planet Maine

BY JUDITH GAINES

January

FRENCH MOVIE NIGHT
Join fellow food and movie buffs for a night of the senses. Along with Petite Jacqueline’s regular dinner service, they will project a French-themed movie in the dining room. 553-7044, bistropj.com

January 8  Amélie
January 15  Chocolat
January 22  Beauty and the Beast
January 29  Julie & Julia
February 5  La Vie en Rose

January 22 PIES ON PARADE
January 22 just happens to be National Pie Day and Rockland, dubbed “Pie Town USA,” celebrates with a “pie tour.” Walk or ride the trolley to more than 20 restaurants, inns, and other businesses to sample...
CUISINE

a wide range of sweet and savory pies:
Shepherd’s pie, Italian galettes, seafood pies,
whoopie pies, Key LimeRock Pie, crab quiche,
cranberry apple pie, and even “healthy” pies
such as “Not Too Sweet Sweet Potato Pie”
and “Refined, Sugar-Free Lavender, Honey
& Yogurt Pie.” All proceeds go to a local food
bank. historicinnsofrockland.com

January 26-28 ICE BAR
In one of the season’s coolest events, Portland
Harbor Hotel invites everyone to embrace the season with an ice bar carved in the hotel’s
courtyard, plus a full bar indoors, a DJ and
food. Tickets benefit Big Brother, Big Sister of
Southern Maine; Share our Strength of Southern
Maine; and Mercy Health Systems’ Health and
Hospice programs.
775-9090, evesatthegarden.com

January 27 - February 5 PORTLAND ON ICE
Skating, ice sculpting, music, and special
events at local restaurants highlight this winter
festival. portlandmaine.com

January 27 EAT MAINE FOODS!
This statewide farmers’ market convention
provides business workshops and networking
opportunities for producers, growers, and mar-
keters designed to increase availability of local
foods. eatmainefoods.org/events

January 28-29 SNOWFEST AT LAKE
PENNESSEWASSEE, A.K.A. NORWAY LAKE
Hamburgers, hotdogs, and chowder out on the
rice, plus radar runs (when radar clocks sledding
speed), drag racing in sleds, and other winter
sports. norway-trackers.com

February 2 EASTER SEALS TOAST
ON THE COAST
This new entry in

MEALS FOR THE SAINTS

VALENTINE’S DAY GOURMET
February 14 presents plenty of dining opportunities for grubnik couples: a special five-
course meal at Five-Fifty-five, Portland, 761-0555, fivefifty-five.com; a special four-course
meal at Blue Sky, York Beach, 363-0050, blueskyonyorkbeach.com

CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL
Choose a dozen samples from 30 decadent chocolate desserts at this family festival, sponsored
by Moosehead Lake’s Chamber of Commerce. February 19. 695-2702, moosehead-
lake.org

CHOCOLATE-LOVERS’ FLING
An afternoon of chocolate delights created by chefs and chocolatiers in York and Cumberland Counties. Proceeds support Sexual Assault Response
Services of Southern Maine. April 1, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland. 828-1035, chocolateloversfling.org

February 3 COFFEE CUPPING
Local chefs make some of their favorite dishes
from top: jambalaya, crawfish pie, and file gumbo—and
invite you to vote for your favorites. wmpg.org
or 781-4151

February 10-12 NAPLES WINTER CARNIVAL
This lively winter fest includes an ice fishing
derby—what a way to get a trout dinner!—helicopter rides, hay rides, snow coach
rides and several snowmobile events.
318-6965, muddydriversnoseekers.org

February 11 MAINE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL
One of many decadent chocolate festivals to
brighten Maine’s gray, chilly winter. What better
time to consume a lot of calories? With enter-
tainment, arts and crafts, chocolate, chocolate
and more chocolate. At the Fairfield community
center. 872-2172

February 17-19 FLAVORS OF FREEPORT
A week of snowmobile events and other win-
sports, plus a chili/chowder cookoff. On Moosehead Lake. 695-4543, mooseheadriders.org

February 18 ANNUAL MARDI GRAS BALL
Black Tie Bistro will bring New Orleans’
Garden District to the West End with a culi-

Dinner with
Jack & Rose

January 21 THE TITANIC
Experience the glamour, exquisite atmos-
phere, and spectacular dining experience
“The way it should have happened!” At the
On the Marsh Bistro in Kennebunk, in a
reminiscent setting, guests are requested to
dress according the time period of 1912
to dine in a fashion similar to how passen-
gers dined on RMS Titanic. As the dinner
starts at 7 p.m., you’ll also have the chance
to meet 8 Titanic passengers portrayed
by professional actors. A portion of the
evening’s proceeds will go to The Maine
Food Bank. Reservations can be made by
calling 967-2299 or by emailing onthe-
marshdining@aol.com. onthemarsh.com
“Come savor the taste of winter on the waterfront.”

Danny DiMillo

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ARGENTINEAN WINE DINNER
Featuring cuisine from Chef Mitchell Kaldrovich’s native Argentina during its harvest time. February 23, Sea Glass Restaurant, Inn by the Sea, Cape Elizabeth. 799-3134, innbythesea.com

February 18-19 MAINE HOME, REMODELING AND GARDEN SHOW
Inspirational ideas and interesting products for your home and garden and cooking tips from some of Maine’s best chefs at the popular “Meet the Chefs” workshops. homegardenflewseshow.com

February 19 MOOSEHEAD LAKE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL
An afternoon of chocolate fun for the whole family. For $10, you pick a dozen chocolate goodies from a wide selection created by area chefs. “Most people need our take-home tray,” says Bob Hamer, executive director of the Moosehead Lake Chamber. In Greenville. 888-876-2778 mooseheadlake.org

March 1-10 MAINE RESTAURANT WEEK
There’s no better time to check out a restaurant you’ve been wanting to try. Eateries around the state offer special three-course, pre-fixe meals at low rates to lure spring customers. Proceeds benefit hungry and homeless Mainers. Among the participating restaurants: In Portland, Back Bay Grill, David’s; Ever’s at the Garden, Farmers’ Table, Gritty McDuff’s, Havana South, Local 188, Porthole, Sea Dog Brewing Company, the Great Lost Bear, Old Port Sea Grill and Twenty Milk Street; in Cape Elizabeth, The Good Table, Sea Glass; in the Kennebunkshores. Homegardenflowershows.com

March 16 FREE ICE CREAM
Gifford’s Maine-made ice cream (“for people who dream in premium flavors”) offers free small ice cream cones to banish what’s left of winter and welcome the spring. Visit their ice cream stands in Auburn, Bangor, Farmington, Skowhegan, or Waterville from 6 to 8 p.m. for the treat. giffordsicecream.com

March 25 EAT THE HEAT CHILI COOK-OFF
Professional and amateur cooks vie for the title “Best Chili Cook.” White Cap Base Lodge. 824-3100, whitecapbase.com

March 25 MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY

FOODIE CULINARY ADVENTURE TOURS
Adventure Chef Michael Salmon of Camden’s Hartstone Inn invites interested food lovers “to come cook and play” in an Italian villa or a French chateau. Tuscan tour will be May 5-12, October 20-27 or October 27-November 3; the tour of France’s Loire Valley will be May 12-19, May 19-26, or October 12-19. For menus and lodging details, go to chefmichael-salmon.com; hartstoneinn.com/cooking-school/european-culinary-tours

LATIN NIGHT
South American and Spanish tapas and wines. March 16, Blue Sky on York Beach. 363-0050, for reservations, blueskyonyorkbeach.com

*Cooking is like love. It should be entered into with abandon or not at all.*
—La Rochefoucauld

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—La Rochefoucauld

PORTLAND MONTHLY MAGAZINE
Maine maple farms invite the public to join in this traditional rite of spring: turning maple sap into syrup. Many farms offer tastings and fun events. Find a participating sugarhouse near you at mainemapleproducers.com.

**April 6-8 PARROT HEAD FESTIVAL**
Featuring a margarita mix-off and Key Lime pie-eating contest. Sunday River. 824-3000, sundayriver.com

**April 27-29 FISHERMEN’S FESTIVAL**

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**CUI SCENE**

**PORTLAND SYMPHONY WINE DINNER**
Savor hand-picked wines paired with creations by some of Maine’s most distinguished chefs and support Portland’s Symphony Orchestra. Past culinary stars have included Sam Hayward of Fore Street, Rob Evans of Hugo’s, Jonathan Cartwright of the White Barn Inn, Lee Skawinski of Cinque Terre and Theda Lyden of the Harraseeket Inn. portlandsymphony.org March 14, 5:30 p.m. Harraseeket Inn, Freeport. portlandsymphony.org

**FIDDLEFEST**
Celebrate spring with its tasty harbingers: fiddleheads, peas, ramps, and asparagus, fixed imaginatively. March 11, University of Southern Maine. mainesa.ta.org

**MAINE FOODIE TOURS**
Organizers of Portland’s popular Foodie Tours are expanding to include tours in Bar Harbor and Kennebunkport. Visit purveyors of Maine cheese, smoked seafood, jams, whoopie pie, handcrafted ales, bread, pastries, chocolates and more. In Portland, walking tours are available year-round; the trolley tour will happen in July and August. In Bar Harbor, a new walking tour will be available from June to October. In Kennebunkport, June to October is the time for the trolley tour. Specially tailored tours can also be arranged on demand: mainefoodietours.com

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Visit our website for hours, directions & function information
207-967-8500 www.pier77restaurant.com
77 Pier Road, Cape Porpoise
A fish fry, lobster trap hauling, and dory bailing. Boothbay Harbor. 633-2353, boothbayharbor.com

April 28 AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS
Fine dining with paired wines to support scholarships for Southern Maine Community College and other rotary-club charities. SMCC. 799-2314, breakwater-rotary.org

May 1 TASTE OF OOB
Participating Old Orchard Beach businesses offer samples of their wares—edible or otherwise. 281-2114, oob365.com

May 18-June 17 MOOSE MAINEA
A month of food and festivities honoring the area’s favorite resident: the moose. mooseheadlake.org or 1-888/876-2778

June 2 FESTIVAL FRANCO FUN
Experience traditional Franco-American food—including a medieval feast—at this annual homage to Maine’s Franco-American heritage. In Lewiston. francocanamericanheritage.org

June 2 FAMILY FISHING FESTIVAL
This is a great opportunity to learn how to fish in waters stocked with brown and rainbow trout—and anything you catch can be taken home and cooked for dinner! Complimentary rods and reels, or bring your own. Free casting instruction and a free mini-tackle box for kids. No fishing license required. At Angevine Park on North Road in Bethel. upperandro.com or 824-3694.

June 10 OLD PORT FESTIVAL
Portland’s biggest one-day party offers free entertainment on more than a half dozen stages—comedy, jazz, country music, rock, even a children’s stage—and food from numerous cuisines around the world prepared by local chefs. portlandmaine.com

June 17 DAIRY DAY AT MORRIS FARM
Sample cheese, milk, and yogurt from several Maine dairies. Butter churning and milking demonstrations. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wiscasset. 882-4080, morrisfarm.org

June 2022 YARMOUTH CLAM FESTIVAL
Try fried clams in crumbs, fried clams in batter, clam cakes, clam chowder, steamed clams and other clammy delights, with proceeds to benefit the town’s many nonprofit organizations. This popular summer soirée also features a clam-shucking contest, canoe and kayak races, a juried arts and crafts show, and foot races for all age groups—even a diaper derby. clamfestival.com

June 22-24 MAINE’S SWEDISH COLONY MIDSOMMAR CELEBRATION

The state’s Swedish Colony, founded in 1870, invites the public to join in a celebration of Maine’s Swedish heritage with traditional food, music and dance. In New Sweden, maineswedishcolonynfo

June 24-26 SPIRIT IN AMERICA
Featuring a “night glow,” tethered balloon rides, lobster bake, and BBQ contest. Old Orchard Beach. 590-4201, oob365.com

June 28-30 GREEK FESTIVAL
Souvlaki, dolmades, shish kebab, moussaka, spanakopita, kourabiedes, loukomades, and baklava. This annual Greek food festival at Portland’s Holy Trinity Orthodox Church has them all, and more. Bring your own handiwipes. Yassou! holytrinityportland.org

June 30 SOUTH BERWICK STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

“God could have made a better berry,” said Samuel Clemens, “but He didn’t.” The sweet red strawberry is honored with shortcakes, berries and cream, chocolate-covered strawberries, pies, jams and activities around the state. One of the largest is held in South Berwick. But many other communities hold festivals in late June or early July, including Wells, Ogunquit, Yorkville, Lincolnville, New Gloucester, Washington, Bangor, Boothbay Harbor, Wiscasset, Rangeley and Locke Mills. southberwickstrawberryfestival.com or the vari-

FEAST YOUR EYES
and feed your belly during First Friday Art Walks!

9 HANDS GALLERY
Appetizers and sparkling water. 815 Congress St., Portland. 865-1300, ninehandsgallery.com

FRASER ART STUDIO
Appetizers, veggie options. 81 Congress St., Portland. 633-2353, pattoryant.com

THE GALLERY AT HARMON’S AND BARTON’S
Wine and appetizers. 584 Congress St., Portland. 828-5600, space538.org

MIKE’S ROCK AND ROLL SANDWICH SHOP
Food platters. 427 Congress St., Portland. 809-5113, mikesrockdeli.com

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Appetizers and drinks. 400 Congress St., Portland. 774-1822, mainehistory.org

SPACE
Appetizers. 538 Congress St., Portland. 828-5600, space538.org

Summer Selections

LA KERMESSE FRANCO-AMERICAIN FESTIVAL
This celebration of Maine’s French Canadian heritage in downtown Biddeford has been happening annually since 1982. Initially it focused on Franco-American foods, crafts and entertainment, but now it has widened to include other cultures. June 21-23. lakermessefestival.com

STRAWBERRY FESTIVALS
Maine’s succulent strawberry is honored with shortcakes, berries and cream, chocolate-covered berries, pies, and assorted activities in communities around the state, including South Berwick (June 30, southberwickstrawberryfestival.com), Wells, Lincolnville, New Gloucester, Washington, Bangor, Wiscasset, and Locke Mills. Contact local chambers of commerce for additional information.

TWILIGHT DINNERS
On alternating Thursdays Turkey Hill Farm in Cape Elizabeth offers evening dinners in its orchard, stalling food grown on the farm. July-September. 761-4769, cultivatingcommunity.org

Jennifer Kearns
MAINEWHOOPIE PIE FESTIVAL
Bakers "from around the country" share their versions of whoopie pie. June 30, Center Theatre, Dover-Foxcroft. 564-8943, mainewhoopiepiefestival.com

MOXIE FESTIVAL
Those who love Maine's official (and somewhat oddball) soft drink, former nostrum and "nerve food" gather in Lisbon Falls for this annual tribute. Includes a pow-wow, car wash, parade, BBQs, fireworks and a famous contest for the best entree, dessert or beverage incorporating "the magic ingredient: Moxie". July 13-15. moxiefestival.com

ous chambers of commerce for details.

July 4 FOOD INDEPENDENCE DAY
Savor your independence with locally sourced ingredients or food you've raised yourself. foodindependenceday.org

July 13-15 GREEK HERITAGE FESTIVAL
A three-day homage to Greek culture, with traditional food and entertainment. St. Demetrios Orthodox Greek Church, Saco. 284-5651, stdemetriosmaine.org

July 14 CRAFT BEER COMES TO BOOTHBAY
Every Maine brewer will attend this craft beer fest sponsored by the Maine Brewer's Guild. Rare, special and single batch beers are the main attraction, plus a traditional BBQ. mainebrewersguild.org

July 14-22 MAINE POTATO BLOSSOM FESTIVAL
Drive through miles of white, pink and purple potato blossoms to Fort Fairfield for this nine-day celebration of one of Maine's most important crops. Includes a potato-picking contest, the Miss Potato Blossom Pageant, a bean hole bean supper, a pet show, fireworks over the Aroostook River, and one of the food world's most eccentric events: mashed potato wrestling! potatothefestival.org

July 20-22 YARMOUTH CLAM FESTIVAL
Three days of fried whole clams in batter, fried whole clams in crumbs, clam cakes, steamed clams, clam chowder, clam pizza, fried clam strips, and clam-shucking. 846-3984, clamfestival.com

July 20-22 MAINE'S CELTIC CELEBRATION
Racing downhill to grab a rolling wheel of cheddar cheese might not be everyone's idea of an appealing sport. But it's the star attraction during this unusual event on the Belfast waterfront—and the winner gets to keep the whole, 3-pound wheel, made by the State of Maine Cheese Company. With bagpipes, Celtic food and Scottish Highland Heavy Games—such as the caber toss, the open stone put, and the Scottish hammer throw. mainecelticcelebration.com

(Continued on page 78)
A Foodie’s Guide (continued from page 57)

July 20-22 WATERFORD WORLD’S FAIR
I’ve never understood why this is called a world’s fair, but it’s a great example of a traditional, award-winning rural fair in a small town that claims to have “a big heart.” Perhaps it also has a big ego, or a big sense of humor. In any case, the fair, which has been held for more than 150 years, has had a recent face-lift with a new livestock barn, a new stage and a new ice cream building. waterfordworldsfair.org

July 22 OPEN FARM DAY
Many Maine farms invite the public to check out their operations, with a wide range of activities decided by each farmer. Find participants at getrealmaine.com. This is the only time all year when some farms are open to visitors.

July 24-28 CENTRAL MAINE EGG FESTIVAL
Check out a frying pan 10 feet in diameter that weighs 300 pounds! The brown egg industry

Michael Jubinsky, named one of the top ten bakers in the US by Dessert Professional Magazine, offers the following classes at the Stone Turtle Baking and Cooking School in Lyman:

Jan. 14—Artisanal French Breads; Jan. 21 and March 31—Making your own pizza, foccacia, calzones, stromboli and homemade mozzarella cheese; Jan. 28—Artisanal Italian breads; Feb. 4—Artisanal Sourdough Bread; Feb. 11—Desserts for Valentine’s Day, with Melissa Hodroff, former asst. pastry chef at Uffa and Five Fifty Five restaurants; Feb. 18—Artisanal Italian breads; Feb. 24-25 Cheese Making, with Appleton Creamery’s Caitlin Hunter; March 10 Artisanal Italian Breads; March 24-25 Bread Intensive Workshop, with baker Richard Miscovich. info@stoneturtlebaking.com or 324-7558

Chef Michael Salmon, of the Hartstone Inn in Camden, offers these cooking classes: January 28 and 29 Preparing Maine Seafood dishes, such as Maine shrimp tartlet and Haddock Oscar; Feb. 25 and 26—Cooking with Lobster, such as lobster with vanilla beurre blanc and a lobster souffle; March 10 and 11—Making Homemade Pasta; April 28 and 29—Tuscan Dishes, like Tuscan onion soup and pesto pasta with pork ragu; June 2 and 3—Making Asian Dishes, such as sweet and sour pork and lobster pot stickers. hartstoneinn.com/cooking-school/scheduled-cooking-classes

Lindsay Sterling, of the Immigrant Kitchens Project teaches how to make favorite dishes from around the world as taught to her by her neighborhood immigrants. Learn how to use exotic spices and eat what you make with about 10 others who love exploring cultures and cooking—and help raise money for the food pantry. Held the second Friday of every month at the Freeport Community Center: Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14. immigrant-kitchens.com or lindsay@lindsaysterling.com for reservations.

Two-day workshops at Appleton Creamery for cheeses you can make at home, including jack, mozzarella, and ricotta, as well as butter, using grocery store cow’s milk. Appleton. appletoncreamery.com

Cooking classes held at Bay Leaf Bistro June through September on Wednesdays featuring different international cuisines Lincolnville. 505-0458, bayleafcottages.com

NYA is giving me what I need to be successful in college, so I KNOW I’ll be prepared.”

Charlie Gerrity 12th Grade Student
sponsors this annual “mother and child reunion” (for chicken and eggs) in Pittsfield with an early bird breakfast, chicken BBQ, “egglympic” contests, and a competition to make the best eggy pie, cheesecake, or quiche. eggfest.craftah.com

Late July FESTIVAL OF NATIONS
This gathering showcases Maine’s growing cultural diversity with food, dance, music, and exhibits representing more than 60 countries. wini.us/festival.htm

August 1 MERRYSPRING’S ANNUAL KITCHEN TOUR
Merryspring, a nonprofit park and education center in Camden and Rockport, sponsors this tour of noteworthy kitchens in its area, with refreshments. merryspring.org

August 1 A TASTE OF GREATER WATERVILLE
Dine under the stars in historic downtown Waterville. Features a beer garden. 873-3315, midmainechamber.com

60 countries. wini.us/festival.htm
August 1-5  MAINE LOBSTER FESTIVAL
Savor some of summer’s finest treats at this annual lobster fest in Rockland’s Harbor Park. Each year more than 20,000 pounds of lobster are prepared here in what organizers claim is the world’s largest lobster cooker. Plus a seafood cooking contest open to any amateur cook at least 18 years old, a big parade, top notch entertainment, a lobster crate race and coronation of Miss Sea Goddess 2012. It’s all capped by a communal lobster dinner in a big tent overlooking lovely Penobscot Bay. 596-0376

August 3  A GRAPE AFFAIR
Al fresco dining in the Cellardoor Winery’s vineyard with local ingredients prepared by Chef Lani Temple of Megunticook Market, plus live music and dancing. In Lincolnville. mainewine.com

August 9-12  MADAWASKA ACADIAN FESTIVAL
See how a family with deep Maine roots organizes a family reunion. Every year, one of the founding Acadian families that first settled in the St. John Valley hosts this gathering, but the public is welcome. With traditional food, crafts and music. greatermadawaskachamber.com or 895-5262.

August 11-12  PLOYE FESTIVAL & MUSKIE FISHING DERBY
Sample this Franco-American favorite, see “the world’s largest ploye,” and try muskie fishing on the St. John River. Fort Kent. 834-5354

August 11-13  PLOYE FESTIVAL & MUSKIE FISHING DERBY
Sample this Franco-American favorite, see “the world’s largest ploye,” and try muskie fishing on the St. John River. Fort Kent. 834-5354

August 10-12  RAITT FARM SUMMER FEST
BBQ contest, woodsmen competition, and live music. Raitt Homestead Farm Museum, Eliot. 748-3303, raittfarmmuseum.org

August 10-12  MAINELY GRILLIN’ AND CHILLIN’ BBQ FESTIVAL
The starring attraction is a state BBQ competition complimented by a range of Maine-made specialties, including Bill’s Famous Bean-hole Baked Beans, Shain’s of Maine Ice Cream, strawberry and blueberry shortcake with Bakewell Cream, Cabot cheese and a Shipyard brew garden. At the Raitt Farm in Eliot. meadowmere.com

August 15-18  CULINARY CRUISES
Experience a culinary vacation at sea aboard the J&E Riggin, a historic windjammer leaving from Rockland Harbor. Chef and author Annie Mahl shares secrets and tips for preparing seasonal, organic ingredients on a ship’s wood-burning stove. The four-day cruise repeats August 25-28 and September 14-17. mainewindjammer.com or 1-800-869-0604.

August 17-19  MACHIAS WILD BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL
Maine’s largest wild blueberry festival offers “wild” fun with a blueberry musical comedy, a black fly ball, a pie-eating contest, cooking contests for blueberry creations in 18 different categories, including best blueberry pickles, best blueberry donuts and best
As You Like It

MOON MEALS
Once a month all year round, on the eve of the full moon, Salt Water Farm in Lincolnville offers a special four-course meal for $65, BYOB. 230-0966, saltwaterfarm.com

FARMERS’ MARKETS
Locals sell freshly harvested produce, meat, cheese, bread, flowers, and assorted specialty products directly to their neighbors. Maine has nearly 100 of these markets throughout the state, including during the winter months. 287-3491, getrealmaine.com

MEAL DEAL
Solo Bistro in Bath offers a special three-course dinner for $17.99 every Wednesday. 443-3373, solobistro.com

CHEF ENCOUNTERS
Watch Executive Chef Adam White prepare your feast right in front of you at the Chef’s Table. Reservations required. The Salt Exchange, Portland. 347-5687, thesaltexchange.net

BUDGET GOURMET
Chefs-in-training from Southern Maine Community College’s Culinary Arts program prepare a buffet lunch on Fridays. $12. SMCC Dining Room, South Portland. 741-5612, smccme.edu

CROSTINI BAR
Grotta Week Night Winterfest.” Each weeknight we will paring a food and drink at a special price. Grotta at Grissini Italian Bistro, Kennebunkport. 967-2211, restaurantgrissini.com

MEAL IN THE FIELDS
Four-to-six local chefs prepare a different course for an al fresco meal on the grounds of a farm in the Mt. Washington Valley, with music and a talk about farm life. Weston’s Farm, Fryeburg, 935-2567.
blueberry wine. Festival meals include a fish fry, blueberry pancake breakfast, baked bean supper and a blueberry dessert bar. machias-blueberry.com Other festivals honoring the state’s indigenous blue orb are held in Wilton (Aug.3-4), Winslow, Rangeley (Aug. 16), Union and Marshfield. Contact their chambers of commerce for details.

August 19 TOUR DE FARMS XIV
Bicycle 20, 50, or 100 miles through scenic mid-coastal Maine and visit small farms along the way. A BBQ is provided to all cyclists with meats and produce from local farms. Proceeds benefit Wiscasset’s Morris Farm Trust, which aims to promote sustainable agriculture. info@morrisfarm.org

August 25 WELLS CHILIFEST
Annual chili and salsa cookoff, sanctioned by the International Chili Society. Winners advance to the World Chili Championship. 646-2451, wellschilifest.com

August 28 KITCHEN GARDEN DAY
An international time for celebrating home harvests. Participants recognize the day in different ways—from organizing garden tours to hosting home-grown potluck dinners. 956-0606, kitchengardeners.org

September 9 SEED TO SOIL
Enjoy a vegetarian feast. Rippling Waters Farm, Steep Falls. 642-5161, ripplingwaters.org

September 6-8 LEWISTON-AUBURN GREEK FESTIVAL
Greek pastries, a taverna, and Greek lunch and dinner. 155 Hogan Rd., Lewiston. 783-6975, holytrinitymaine.org

September 15 CHOWDER FESTIVAL AND HARVEST FEST
Sample competing chowders and vote for your favorite at this popular contest held in conjunction with Bethel’s Harvest Fest. On the Bethel village common. bethelharvestfest.com

September 15 MT. DESERT ISLAND GARLIC FESTIVAL
In 1998, some garlic farmers gathered for a garlic-centered meal to celebrate their harvest. They wore “garlic festival” T-shirts, and a tradition was born. Now garlic growers are joined by chefs, musicians, brewers and more at the Smugglers’ Den Campground. nostrano.com /garlic.html

September 16 SOIL TO SUPPER
Held at Rippling Waters, a CSA in Standish, the event brings food-lovers right to the source for a late-summer potluck that includes music and agricultural education 2:630 p.m. slowfoodportland.org

September 21-23 COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR
One of the year’s best and most important fairs, sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. Lots of organic food vendors, cooking demonstrations, and talks by celebrated chefs, farmers and fishermen about growing, preserving, storing and preparing local produce, livestock and seafood. In Unity. mofga.org

September 28-29 VINFEST
An elegant dinner-dance on Friday under a tent in the Cellardoor Winery’s Lincolville vineyard is followed on Saturday with a harvest festival complete with grape stomping, BBQ, and food and wine pairings. mainewine.com

Late September PEMAQUID OYSTER FESTIVAL
Slurp great Maine oysters on a landing overlooking an oyster farm and support Damariscotta’s working waterfront, plus live entertainment. A well-known oyster expert says that the Damariscotta region is to oysters as Burgundy is to wine. Enjoy them at their peak. schoonerlandingmaine.com /festivals.php

October 5-8 DAMARISCOTTA PUMPKINFEST AND REGATA
When they call this a celebration “of all things pumpkin,” they really mean it. In addition to the state-sanctioned weigh-off for the largest pumpkin (and these babies are huge), you’ll find underwater pumpkin carving, a race in pumpkin boats and even a workshop on how to make a pumpkin boat, pumpkin hurling, pumpkin painting, pumpkin pie-eating of course, a pumpkin pancake breakfast, and a contest for the best pumpkin dessert. damariscottapumpkinfest.com

October 6 CHOWDAH CHALLENGE
Local chefs compete to make the best clam and seafood chowders, as well as lobster bisque. Taste all the entries and vote for your favorites! Proceeds benefit Freeport Community Services. At L.L. Bean Discovery
Park in Freeport. For updated information, call 865-3985. freeportusa.com

October 9 OPEN CREAMERY DAY
Cheese makers around the state invite you to tour their operations and sample their wares. Makers today produce more than 150 artisanal cheeses and are increasing winning awards for them. This is a great opportunity to get to know your local cheesemakers and their creations. Go to mainecheeseguild.org for a list of participating creameries.

October 10 SIGNATURE CHEFS’ AUCTION
Sample popular dishes prepared by Portland chefs, with live music and an auction to benefit the March of Dimes. At DiMillo’s on Portland’s Long Wharf. marchdimes.com/portland or 878-1199

October 13-14 YORK HARVESTFEST
Hosted at Short Sands Ball Field by pumpkinlight, feast on roasted ox and bean hole beans at this annual two-day gathering. Featuring live music and crafts. 10-4 p.m. 363-4422, maineoktoberfest.org

October 21 GREAT MAINE APPLE DAY
Explore the history and variety of Maine apples through apple cooking, cider-making, apple art, tree care workshops and tastings of some of Maine’s rare and heirloom apples at the Common Ground Educational Center in Unity. Farms around the state invite you to pick your own. mofga.org or 568-4142.

October 27 TASTE OF BETHEL AND BEYOND
Every Bethel-area restaurant is invited to bring some of its specialties to this gathering, where samples are sold for $1 each. Proceeds support a culinary scholarship for a budding chef or restaurateur. info@bethelmaine.com

October 25-27 HARVEST ON THE HARBOR
More than 5,000 people come from around the world to experience the best of Maine cuisine at this major, three-day event. Seminars, tastings and meals created by local chefs. At the Greater Portland Convention and Visitors Bureau. harvestontheharbor.com

November HUGO’S POTATO DINNER
It’s not too early to reserve a seat at the birthday party that award-winning chef Rob Evans throws for himself every November. It’s an elaborate, multi-course meal with potatoes in every course. At Hugo’s, his restaurant in Portland. hugos.net or 774-8538

November MAINE BEER WEEK
Special tastings, beer and food pairings, and beer dinners at restaurants around the state. mainebeerweek.com

November 24 GREEK HOLIDAY BAZAAR
Greek food is the main attraction at this gathering, where you can get a hot meal or holiday gifts for food-loving friends. St. Demetrios, Saco. stdemetriosmaine.org

December 1 MAKE YOUR Own CANDY CANE
The Len Libby Co. invites children to learn how to make their own holiday candy canes. In Scarborough at the home of Lenny, the huge chocolate moose. 883-4897

November 30 December 9 CHRISTMAS PRELUDE
No one does Christmas and all the foreplay better than Kennebunkport. You’ll find candlelight carolling, holiday shopping with refreshments, a fair with Maine-made products, lighting of a tree adorned with lobster traps, special restaurant meals, arty champagne receptions, and the arrival of Santa himself—by lobster boat. christmasprelude.com

December 1 EARMUFF DAY
Also known as Chester Greenwood Day, this makes the national list of “Bizarre, Crazy, Silly. Unknown Holidays and Observances.” Greenwood, who invented the earmuff, is honored with contests for the best chili and gingerbread houses, a parade, foot races and more. In his hometown, Farmington. franklincountymaine.org

December 1 SHAKER CHRISTMAS FAIR
This is a fine time to visit Maine’s Shaker community, where this traditional fair is held in the 1816 office and the “Merry Christmas” garage. You can buy Shaker baked goods and crafts, including Brother Arnold’s famous biscuits (which he makes specially for the fair), pickles, cheese, wreaths, and other Shaker-related gifts, including the celebrated oval boxes. In New Gloucester. 926-4597

Early to Mid-December EAST END HOLIDAY STROLL
An array of restaurants in Portland’s East End will be aglow with lights and music for this annual stroll—or trolley ride, if you prefer. Shoppers get delicious little treats, special deals, and a festive atmosphere to kick off the holiday season. eastendshops.com
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ART AT THE GRILL
Monthly receptions for local artists, featuring different works each month. Includes free appetizers, wines, and cocktails by Chef Rick Hirsch. Year round, Damariscotta River Grill. 563-2992, damariscottarivergrill.com

SLOW FOOD PORTLAND
Writers' Night
Authors who write about food read from their works, with tasty food offerings from Maine’s most talented Slow Food cooks. Past participants have included Ed Behr, Anne Mendelson, Max Watman, Sandy Oliver, Nancy Harmon Jenkins, and Kathy Gunst. March 10. slowfoodportland.org

POP THE CORK
Toasts the arts with food, wine, music, and dance and proceeds to benefit a local arts NPO. Also featuring Grammy-winning group Boyz II Men. Kennebunk, June 7; Rockport, June 28. 763-4478, mainewine.com

Writers' Night
Regional join local culinary talents to present a January evening of readings and a taste of Maine’s winter bounty. Past readers have included Ed Behr, Nancy Harmon Jenkins, Sandy Oliver, James Peterson, Anne Mendelson, and Margaret Hathaway. slowfoodportland.org

KENNEBUNKPORT FESTIVAL
This event explores the art of imaginative dining. Chefs design meals inspired by art on display around town—made by artists in residence at local inns during the festival. Includes public and private dinners, cocktail parties, wine tastings and other arty happenings. June 28. kennebunkportfestival.com

December 24 FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES
Traditional holiday Italian feast with four courses and seven fishes. Cinque Terre, Portland. 347-6154 for reservations.

Hungry Holidays
CHRISTMAS BY THE SEA
Ogunquit’s holiday merriment features chowder and chocolate fests. 649-2939, ogunquit.org

To submit entries and for event updates, visit portlandmonthly.com/portmag/2011/12/a-foodies-guide-extras.
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When her mother disappears during a weekend trip, Florine Gilham’s idyllic childhood in small-town Maine during the early 1960s is turned upside down. With Fannie Flagg’s humor and Elizabeth Strout’s evocative splendor, this debut is an extraordinary snapshot of a bygone America through the eyes of an inspiring girl blazing her own path to womanhood.

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I love this book, with its fresh-baked bread, stars and waves, wind-worn houses, mysteries and truths. A wonderful first novel.”
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