

WHERE TO EAT NOW

Maine's top chefs pick 53 favorite restaurants *p.64*

from
**MELISSA
KELLY**
to
**MARTHA
STEWART**

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Down East

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We've said it before and we'll say it again: We are living through the Golden Age of Maine food. To help us sort through the state's increasingly plentiful dining options, we have once again turned to the experts: the chefs and food industry folks that we trust to lead us to dependably good eats. This list represents their favorite dining spots. You'll find some well-known institutions (because Fore Street in Portland really is that good), but you'll also discover some surprises: cheap take-out joints and ethnic eateries that have impressed Maine's finest chefs over the past year. So here it is, our annual eating guide of fifty-three restaurants that you absolutely must put on your to-visit list.

EDITED BY KATHLEEN FLEURY

White Barn Inn

37 Beach Ave., Kennebunk, 207-967-2321, www.whitebarninn.com

"What is not to love about the White Barn Inn? The luxury, the decadence!" declares Primo's Melissa Kelly. Mark Gaier and Clark Frasier of nearby Arrows share Kelly's sentiments: "Consistently, White Barn Inn offers gracious service in a lovely setting with delicious food. You can't help but relax and enjoy yourself." Many of our experts had high praise for this southern Maine spot, where chef Jonathan Cartwright has been at the helm crafting sophisticated meals in a romantically rustic and elegant barn setting since 1994.

Picnic Provisions: If you stay at the inn, the restaurant will pack you a personal picnic basket for your day's exploration. Not only do you get to eat the award-winning food, but you get to keep the wicker basket, too!

pick a piece of pizza

A half-dozen slices to scream for.

Very thin crust brick oven style at **Pizza Napoli**, 667 Main St., Ogunquit, 207-646-0303
— Mark Gaier and Clark Frasier, Arrows

coffee talk

The local brew is the best brew, no matter where in Maine you happen to wake up.

"We stock up on Randy's Red Eye coffee at **Fancy That** (141 Rte. 1, Ogunquit, 207-646-4118). The espresso at **Café Prego** (44 Shore Rd., Ogunquit, 207-646-7734, www.caffepregoot.com) is excellent, and it's our favorite spot for gelato." — Mark Gaier and Clark Frasier, Arrows

OUR EXPERTS

Clark Frasier and Mark Gaier
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