

Southern Maine Restaurant Recommendations

1. **Becky's Diner, Portland** - Nothing is finer than hitting up Becky's for a tasty meal right on the working waterfront. This is a true Portland icon.

2. **Chaval, Portland** – A European-inspired restaurant in Portland's West End. Chef Damian Sansonetti was a finalist for a James Beard award in 2022. His wife and business partner Ilma Lopez has been a semifinalist twice for her pastry work.

3. **DiMillo's on the Water, Portland** - The iconic Portland seafood restaurant is a Maine bucket list must. How can you leave the state without a delicious meal on the converted old boat? 4. **Earth at Hidden Pond, Kennebunkport** - Featured on television shows and national magazines, this Kennebunkport compound is one of the prettiest restaurants in the country. This will be a meal and experience you will never forget.

5. **Flo's Hot Dogs, Cape Neddick** - Flo's has been pumping out delicious hot dogs since 1959. It's a "can't miss" for tourists and locals alike. It's true Maine.

6. **Jonathan's, Ogunquit** - The Southern Maine staple has been a hit for nearly 50 years. The restaurant's seafood pasta dish is iconic.

7. **Isa Bistro, Portland** - One of the highest-rated restaurants in Portland is this unpretentious gem. The menu is a hit list of delicious meals, perhaps only surpassed by the impeccable service.

8. **Ken's Place, Scarborough** - Southern Maine has its fair share of seafood joints. However, none get as much love as Ken's Place does.

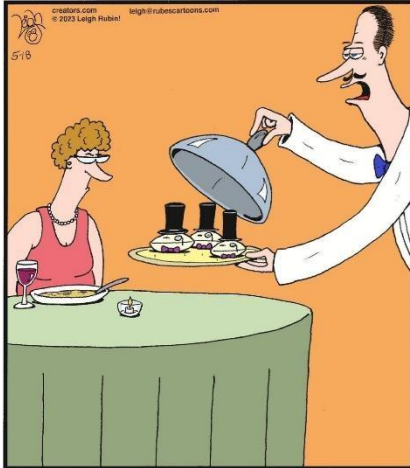
9. **The Lost Fire, Kennebunkport** - Argentina steakhouse with delectable food, amazing drinks, and the perfect vibe. It's one of the most underrated spots in Maine. It's a meat-lovers bucket list must.

10. **Maine Diner, Wells** - The diner has such a following that it has even been featured on television shows. Plus, you can get lobster for breakfast.



11. **Palace Diner, Biddeford** - is special because it is one of the oldest operating, authentic 1927 Pollard train car diners in the U.S., offering a rare, historic dining experience with only 15 stools. It is famous for elevating comfort food, such as its acclaimed tuna melt, buttermilk pancakes, and PBLT, using high-quality ingredients from scratch. This one has won ALL the awards. Cash only.

12. **The Steakhouse, Wells** – Popular with the locals. If you can cook a good steak, Mainers will love you forever.



"Steamed?...My apologies, ma'am, I thought you ordered the *esteemed* clams."

13. **Scales Portland**- Top-tier seafood on the Old Port wharf, offering a quintessential Portland experience.

14. **Fore Street Portland** - Famous for its large wood-fired grill, offering locally sourced meats and fish.

15. **Twelve Portland** - An upscale, modern dining experience located in a historic waterfront building.

16. **Fernleaf Bakery and Coffee Shop, Saco**- a quaint bakery serving up coffee and sandwiches in addition to excellent baked goods.

17. **Congdon's After Dark , Wells** - Congdon's After

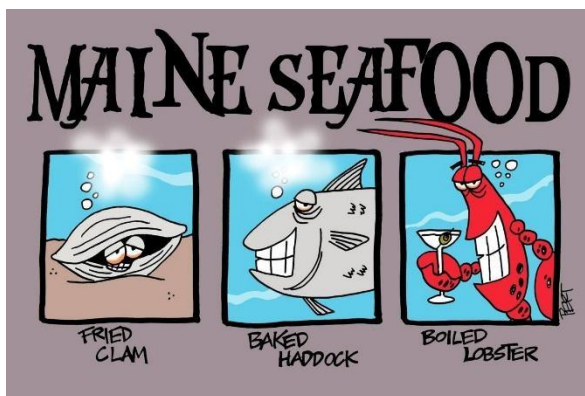
Dark is the only food truck park in New England. It offers a unique dinner option for summer residents and guests with up to 10 food trucks serving from 4 – 8 PM with at least one truck staying open until 9 or 10 PM. There are fun and diverse food options, live music, a Maine-centric Beer Garden, kid's entertainment, and pets are welcome too

18. **MC Perkins Cove, Ogunquit** - This waterfront restaurant run by two James Beard award-winning chefs makes it possible to enjoy a gourmet meal as close to the ocean as possible. Its dining room features floor-to-ceiling windows, offering an unfettered view of the Atlantic Ocean. While you enjoy the ocean, you get to eat classic bistro dishes — or order from the full raw bar.

19. **The Front Porch, Ogunquit** - Located in the heart of beautiful downtown Ogunquit, and an institution for more than 35 years, The Front Porch offers a diverse menu that is served in all three unique areas of the restaurant: the dining room, bar lounge, and the popular sing-along piano bar. It really is a worldfamous entertainment destination – you *never know* who will join you in that sing along. *Legends!*

20. **The White Barn Inn , Kennebunk** - A AAA Five Diamond, Forbes Five Star restaurant, that showcases incredible ingredients sourced through specially cultivated relationships with the farmers, fishermen and foragers of coastal Maine for beautifully presented, always inspired dishes that encapsulate the very essence of its spectacular setting. A truly memorable experience.

21. **Magnus on the Water, Biddeford** - Biddeford is giving Portland a run for its money as the next up-and-coming foodie town. The city of Biddeford has just been named by Food and Wine as one of America's next great food cities. And this restaurant is a good reason.
22. **Run of the Mill Public House & Brewery, Saco** - This pub is housed in the big mill in Saco's town center. They've got great sandwiches, soups, salads, and poutine. It's the perfect place to stop for a bite on Saturday's after spending the morning at the mill's farmer's market. The back deck overlooking the river is the perfect spot to catch an afternoon breeze.
23. **Pine Point Grill, Scarborough** - Great neighborhood place. Upscale menu with a casual atmosphere.
24. **J's Oyster Bar, Portland**- Divey and Very Unassuming. Casual eatery & bar hidden on a pier is known for its steamed clams & other coastal classics.

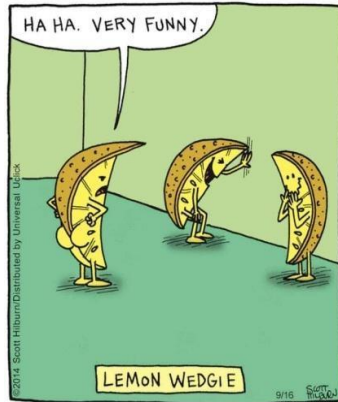


Anthony Bourdain loved this place.

25. **Luke's Lobster, Portland** - Located directly on the working waterfront, off the Portland Pier, in the heart of the Old Port, and situated right beside their lobster buying station. It offers 360' views of Portland Harbor. Lobster rolls, whole lobster and fantastic spot for a Maine craft beer with a breeze.
26. **Reilly's Bakery, Biddeford** - home-baked, tried-and-true recipes, has been passed down through four generations of the Reilly family. The beloved neighborhood spot offers baked goods like butter cookies, pies, breads and maple crème rolls
27. **Edelweiss Pastry Shop, Biddeford** The menu includes favorites like croissants, creme puffs and scones, as well as Swiss- and German-inspired pastries like chocolate and raspberry streusel kuchen and braided zopf bread.
28. **Royal River Grill, Yarmouth** - Upscale yet casual spot for wood-grilled seafood & steaks, with sweeping marina & water views.
29. **Lisa's Pizza, Old Orchard Beach**- a landmark walk-up stand in Old Orchard Beach, widely popular for its **authentic "beach pizza," iconic fried dough, and crispy crinkle-cut fries**. It is a family-owned business that has been a staple of the beachfront since 1974.
30. **Joseph's by the Sea , Old Orchard Beach** -a premier oceanfront dining destination known for its stunning, panoramic Atlantic views, upscale yet relaxed atmosphere, and fresh, locally sourced seafood. It is particularly special for its multi-

level dining options, including a heated patio and a popular rooftop deck perfect for sunset cocktails.

31. Johnny Shucks, Old Orchard Beach - highly-rated, popular spot known for serving fresh, generously packed Maine lobster rolls featuring claw and knuckle meat.



32. The Bait Shed, Pine Point - It is widely claimed that the **first lobster roll in Maine** was created at this location. The restaurant is run by the fourth generation of the **Bayley family**, who have been selling lobster at this location since 1915. The dining area consists of a meandering outdoor deck and pier situated directly over the tidal flats. This offers diners panoramic views of the marsh wildlife and sunsets, though at low tide, the view shifts significantly to mud flat. The Bait Shed is exceptionally welcoming to pets, offering a "**doggie menu**" featuring burgers or hot dogs served on a souvenir Frisbee, along with a pail of fresh water.

33. Fish & Whistle, Biddeford - Casual, high-quality spot specializing in locally sourced seafood, known for amazing fish and chips.

34. Rapid Ray's, Saco - a historic, family-owned, and iconic takeout landmark in Saco since 1953, celebrated for its "fast food at its finest" approach. It is renowned for serving quick, affordable, and high-quality food—specifically steamed, red hot dogs, thin burgers, and crispy fries—often to late-night diners at its walk-up window.

35. Beach Vibes Bisto, Old Orchard Beach - Situated within the **Grand Beach Inn** near the pier. Features an outdoor patio with **live music**, a full bar, and a petfriendly environment where **dogs are allowed**