LET'S EAT

dining

the Guide

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Phil Mickelson's Lobster Ravioli at Nineteen at TPC Sawgrass



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nightlife



32 BARS, NIGHTCLUBS & MUSIC VENUES

The Atlantic) I III (1997) 333 1st St. N., Jacksonville Beach, 249-3338. DJ old wave, '80s retro, pop and house music.

Bay Street Dive Bar) ↓ 🖾 😳 \$ 331 E. Bay St., Downtown, 359-9090. Occasional live music, rock & roll, full bar.

Bo's Coral Reef) 5 🖼 🖼 😳 201 Fifth Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach, 246-9874. Live music nightly, local acts like Too Many Shoes, DJ dance music on weekends.

Burrito Gallery & Bar ♫ ⊠ ☺ 21 E. Adams St., Downtown,598-2922. DJs, live music, full bar and separate restaurant bar, outdoor patio.

The Comedy Zone ***** #M Ramada Inn Mandarin, I-295 and San Jose Blvd., Mandarin, 292-4242. Headliners such as Ralphie May and Doug Benson, dinner buffet.

Cuba Libre) J 🖾 🖾 🦇 Havana-Jax, 2578 Atlantic Blvd., St. Nicholas, 399-0609. DJ Latin, salsa and merengue music, dance lessons Thursdays, Cuban cuisine.

Crazy Horse) J 🖾 😳 💲 🦇 1241 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, 213-0606. Three dance clubs under one roof, country, disco and hip-hop DJs.

Fionn MacCool's Irish Pub 员 ② MM 333 1st St. N., Jacksonville Beach, 242-9499. A slice of the Emerald Isle at the Beaches, late night eats, Irish music.

Fuel)♬ \$ 1037 Park St., Riverside, 425-3835. Various acoustic acts, open mic and spoken word, coffee and beer.

Freebird Live 入员③参 444 200 First St. N., Jacksonville Beach, 246-2473. Live local rock bands, regional acts, touring bands.

Harmonious Monks J 🗇 🚧 10550 Old St. Augustine Rd., Mandarin, 880-3040. Singing servers every Thursday-Saturday, karaoke, dancing encouraged.

Island Girl Cigar Bar *J* **©** *S* **©***M*⁴ 7860 Gate Pkwy., Ste. 115, Southside, 854-6060. Live entertainment in an upscale tropical lounge, happy hour specials.

The Ivy Ultra Bar 🔿 🎜 🖼 🏈 🙂 🕏 🚧 113 E. Bay St., Downtown, 356-9200. Downtown hipster lounge.

The Lemon Bar) 算 题 《 ③ 条 納 Neptune Beach, 246-2175. Trendy watering hole located oceanside behind the Sea Horse Oceanfront Inn.

The London Bridge) I © 100 E. Adams St., Downtown, 359-0001. Blues bands, DJ, open mic night on Tuesday.

Mark's Downtown) ↓ 🖾 😳 \$ 315 E. Bay St. Ste. 101, Downtown, 355-5099.Retro-modern décor, full bar, DJ dance music, casual chic dress code.

Maverick's)。第 20 参 桃 Upstairs at The Jacksonville Landing, Downtown, 356-1110. Rock n'honky tonk, country music acts. Mill Top Tavern 5 (2) 19 1/2 St. George St., St. Augustine, 829-2329. Acoustic musicians, blue grass bands nightly.

Monkey's Uncle Communication (2004) 10601 San Jose Blvd., Mandarin, 260-1349. Various acoustic, country, rock performers on weekends, karaoke.

Ocean Club) ഈ ⊕ ₩ 401 First St., Jacksonville Beach, 242-8884. DJ dance club, house, Top 40, reggae, old wave, '70s disco, hip-hop and more.

Palace Saloon J 🖾 🗇 🕬 117 Centre St., Fernandina Beach, 491-3332. Historic bar presents live bands during the week and DJ dance music on weekends.

Pete's Bar) ** 117 1st St., Neptune Beach, 249-9158. A Beaches tradition for 75 years, pool tables, full bar and cold beer.

The Pearl) J 🖾 📽 🦇 1101 N. Main St., Downtown, 791-4449. DJ dance music, "enchanted forest" theme.

Ragtime Tavern JC:MM 207 Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach, 241-7877. Mainstay of the Beaches music scene. Hosts blues, jazz and rock acts Wednesday-Sunday.

The Ritz) (5) (3) (4) 139 3rd. Ave., Jacksonville Beach, 246-2255. DJ dance music nightly, funk, '80s pop, alternative, etc.

The Roadhouse G C 231 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, 264-0611. Long-time Orange Park pub presents local and regional rock bands Thursday-Saturday.

Square One) J 🖾 🙁 💲 🦇 1974 San Marco Blvd., San Marco, 306-9004. Jazz and R&B, DJ dance music and Sex and the City nights on Thursday.

Plush) # 🖼 🕷 845 University Blvd. N., Arlington, 743-1845. Dance club with DJ spinning house, hip-hop, and Top 40 music.

Tera Nova) 题 种 8206 Philips Hwy., Baymeadows, 733-8085. Posh upscale club, dress code enforced.

The Twisted Martini) I 🖾 🗇 🚧 Jacksonville Landing, Downtown, 353-8464; DJ dance music, salsa and disco nights, tapas menu.

West Inn Cantina) ♫ ④ ☺ ₩₩ 3644 St. Johns Ave., Avondale, 389-1131. Open mic nights, rock and acoustic acts. *J

FRED SEELY

review

Par for the Course

TPC Sawgrass clubhouse has fine eats, too.

f you build a \$44 million clubhouse, it better have a good place to eat, huh? If it doesn't, there will be one sore commissioner on your case (and probably a few pro golfers who actually own the place), so the folks who run **Nineteen at TPC Sawgrass** (*Ponte Vedra Beach, 273-3235*) are on their toes, fingers and every other extremity to make sure you and your \$15 hamburger are comfy.

The House That Finchem Built—the \$33 million, 77,000-square-foot behemoth that came in reportedly at about \$10 million more—is a monument to the excesses of life, or at least life before those nasty congressmen started poking into corporate spending. PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem wanted a memorial to his reign and he built one, a glitzy faux Flagler College-like Mediterranean edifice on an artificial hill overlooking the famous golf course that hosts The Players Championship every May.

Nineteen is half the building's midsection, two rooms of dining plus a 10-table porch overlooking the 18th hole. Except for tournament week and special occasions like very, very expensive weddings, it's open to you and me for breakfast, lunch and dinner. How many other public restaurants can there be that are guarded by a gate?

To get there, go through either entrance on TPC Boulevard or Solana Road to the PGA Tour complex. Don't let the gate intimidate you; just tell the guard that you're going to the clubhouse to eat. Turn at the PGA Tour headquarters and the clubhouse is a quarter-mile ahead. There's a big parking lot, but you'll have an uphill walk, so drop off passengers at the main entrance.

Nineteen is part sports bar, part fine dining,



and the two somehow don't collide. The big screen TVs are there, and the bar can be raucous, but the big main room holds the noise well and the adjacent members-only room has a River Club-like quietness.

The food is wonderful and plentiful. The PGA Tour has a national network of clubs and it has lots of chefs, and it took the best from the best for this one. The big kitchen is built to handle huge gatherings, such as Finchem's annual reception during the golf tournament, and serving a few hundred meals in an hour or so isn't any harder than a two-foot putt.

The service is the result of scouting the area's best restaurants for the best waitstaff. Everyone smiles and really, really wants you to enjoy your experience. Disney? Good comparison. But not as many kids.

Yes, it's an experience with Rolex clocks on the wall, premium brands in the well, real silver on the buffet line and leather-bound menus. 'Tis said that the Commish ordered the best and, when he found something better, sent through a change order.

The prices compare with the area's ritziest and top out at a \$42 entrée (veal Oscar) in the members-only room. Other dinner entrées run in the \$20-\$30 range with a good selection.

You really have to look hard to find the minus-

es in Nineteen. OK, here's a few: There's no view from the inside dining area due to curtains, and one wonders why the entire south wall wasn't one big window; don't expect perfect neighbors—on a recent Friday, a group of genteel Vicar's Landing ladies were next to a foursome of sweaty, beer-swilling golfers settling bets.

You can handle those, of course (unless you're one of those genteel ladies). Plus, you're in a grand building with lots of artwork and a great shop, the atmosphere is stunning from every side and you can wander around the immediate area.

Yes, you may see a Tour pro or two (on a recent day, both Jim Furyk and Mark McCumber were dining) and Finchem and his gimlet eye are frequent visitors.

OK, the hamburger is about the same (and twice the price) as the one you'll get down the street at Cruiser's, and you have to ask for ranch dressing with your fries. But this is the big league, folks, and you won't forget it after you dine there. *J

Nineteen at TPC Sawgrass is open daily from 7 AM to 9 PM. Reservations are recommended, especially if you want to sit outside. For more information or a peek at the menu, go to www.tpc.com/sawgrass.

the guide

* POSTED ONLINE 24/7 AT JACKSONVILLEMAG.COM *

GUIDE TO THE GUIDE:

L- Lunch: D- Dinner: SB- Sunday Brunch: O- Outdoor Seating: VP- Valet Parking: Y-Cocktail Lounge/Bar: 1- Live Entertainment: **BR**- Private Banquet Room: **FB**- Full Bar: **B/W**-Beer & Wine Only: **RA**– Reservations Accepted: **RS**– Reservations Suggested: **TO**– Takeout; AX - American Express; DS - Discover; V - Visa; MC - MasterCard; ALL - All major credit cards

- 10 or less	These \$ categories are based upon the average cost of a dinner entrée excluding drinks, desserts and/or gratuities.
\$\$ — \$11 to \$20	
\$\$\$ — \$21 to \$30	
\$\$\$\$ — \$31 or above	

NOTE: Some restaurant entrée prices do not include à la carte sides or salad. All phone numbers are in the (904) area code. Dining guide can be viewed online at jacksonvillemag.com. The Guide does not represent a complete listing of Jacksonville area restaurants. Listings are reserved for Jacksonville Magazine clients and friends.

RESTAURANT DIRECTORY & FOOD NEWS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Menu items mentioned in the following listings are subject to change, as are any prices posted or details about each restaurant.

AMERICAN

- Aqua Grill 950 Sawgrass Village, Ponte Vedra Beach (285-3017; www.aquagrill.net). Featuring lakeside patio seating, private banquet facilities, aged Angus steaks, fresh seafood including live Maine lobster, chicken, pasta and vegetarian dishes. Private banquet room and a bar area with large screen TV. Casual. L, D, FB, Y, RA, RS, O, BR, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- Barbara Jean's 15 S. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra (280-7522); 960030 Gateway Blvd., Amelia Island (277-3700). The crab cakes are famous, but don't overlook the homemade breadspumpkin, sweet jalapeño corn bread and wheat rolls. She-crab soup, 15 veggies prepared daily and the "chocolate stuff" are crowd pleasers, too. Breakfast served on weekends and holidays. L, D, FB, O, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Blackstone Grille 112 Bartram Oaks Walk, Julington Creek (287-0766; blackstone-grille.com). Serving a variety of meat and seafood entrées such as pan-seared sea bass, filet mignon au poivre and scallop and shrimp Newburg. Sunday brunch buffet. Private dining room. Upscale. L, D, SB, FB, Y, RS, O, BR, TO, 告, \$\$\$, ALL.
- b.b.'s 1019 Hendricks Ave., San Marco (306-0100). There's a definite buzz about this hip San Marco bistro. Its upscale comfort food. which includes prosciutto-wrapped pork chops or mushroom triangoli ravioli (specials change daily) with to-die-for desserts, have patrons-a mixed bag of hipster yuppies, soccer moms out on the town and moneyed empty nesters-lining up. Casual. L, D, BW, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Biscottis 3556 St. Johns Ave., Avondale (387-2060: www.biscottis.net). One of the few places where you can be seated between a Red Hat Society member and a purple-haired creative director, this Avondale institution specializes in innovative updates on old favorites like meatloaf served with apricot marinara sauce and duck confit pizza (dinner specials change daily). Local painters display their works in the dining room, but the real works of art are in the dessert case. Casual. B, L, D, SB, BW, O, TO, 恷, \$\$, ALL.

The Brick Restaurant 3585 St. Johns Ave., Avondale (387-0606). Food might be the main attraction (regulars swear by the grilled salmon salad, Kobe beef burger and prime rib), but it's not the only thing that draws guests into The Brick. Outdoor seating, live music (usually of the groovy, jazzy variety) and a happening bar also make it an Avondale hotspot, Casual, L. D. SB, FB, Y, O, RA, TO, &, 1, \$\$, ALL.

Café Nola 333 N. Laura St., Downtown (366-6911, x231). Inside the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, this chic eatery serves food that rivals its artwork, with dishes like spicy salmon soba, coconut and curry chicken, grilled asparagus and blueberry salad with goat cheese and toasted Georgia pecans. Wine tastings every Thursday. Upscale. L, D, RA, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.

Chew Restaurant 117 W. Adams St., Downtown (355-3793). Downtown hotspot serves an innovative menu featuring twists on favorites like mac and cheese gratin, apple and goat cheese salad, fried green tomato BLT, short rib sliders and full service Lavazza espresso. Loose leaf tea selection. L, D, B/W, TO, 뇽, \$\$, ALL.

Cobblestones at the Creek 108 Julington Plaza Dr., Julington Creek (230-6744). Innovative menu features "Creek" chips, signature fusion filet, spice blanket grouper and mini indulgences for dessert. Upscale yet casual. D, SB, FB, Y, RA, O, BR, VP, TO, 1, &, \$\$, ALL.

Cruiser's Grill 319 23rd Ave. S., Jacksonville Beach (270-0356); 832 Hwy. A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach (273-5446); 3 St. George St., St. Augustine (824-6993). Famed for its enormous orders of cheddar cheese fries, Cruiser's is a casual and family-friendly burger and sandwich joint that also serves Tex-Mex favorites like quesadillas and tacos. Save room for a Häagen-Dazs milkshake, L. D. B/W. O. TO. &. \$. ALL.

- Eleven South Bistro 216 11th Ave. S., Jacksonville Beach (241-1112). Upscale eatery earns high marks for its extensive wine list. mesquite wood grill and outdoor patio. Seafood martini, lobster "mac and cheese," red wine braised short ribs, and Colorado rack of lamb highlight the menu. L, D, FB, Y, RA, RS, O, BR, VP, TO, 1, &, \$\$\$\$, ALL.
- European Street Four locations: 992 Beach Blvd., (249-3001: www.europeanstcafe.com): 5500 Beach Blvd., (398-1717); 2753 Park St., (384-9999); 1704 San Marco Blvd., (398-9500). With more than 100 salads and deli sandwiches and another

hundred beers to choose from, the home of the monster German wiener caters to worker bees on lunch break and neighborhood denizens at "beerthirty." Casual. L, D, B/W, O (except 992 Beach Blvd.), TO, 1 (San Marco only), \$, ALL.

- The Grape 10281 Midtown Pkwy., Suite 119, St. Johns Town Center (642-7111). Hip wine boutique and eatery serving lamb chops, steak sandwiches, brie quesadilla and chocolate fondue. L, D, wine only, RA, O, TO, 1, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Heirlooms Bistro 104 Bartram Oaks Walk, Ste. 101, Julington Creek (230-3999). This trendy eatery presents an innovative menu featuring golden lobster bisque, citrus-scented salmon filet, 12 oz. New York strip, Thai BBQ pork

* Wine & A Movie *



Corie and Paul Bratter are young newlyweds who have free spirit and he's not, living than tiny brownstone apartaggravated with Paul's dull runs Barefoot in the Park

to prove his spontaneity. Based on Neil Simon's play, this 1967 classic stars Jane Fonda and summer salad wine such as Mulderbosch's Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé (\$13) a bright and clear pomegranate-colored blend of strawberries, cherries and peaches capped off with actual roses. According to the South African vintner known for its sauvignon blanc, this pink cab goes well with seared tuna, vegetable spring rolls and asparagus quiche. *J

chops and chocolate soufflé. D, FB, RA, TO, \$\$, ALL.

- Heirlooms, A Culinary Cafe and Market 9545 San Jose Blvd., San Jose (880-2291; www.heirloomsinc.com). Establishment offers a little bit of everything—catering, takeout market and dine-in breakfast and lunch. BBQ duck wonton, Brentwood pot roast sandwich, rock shrimp burrito and eggplant parmesan on the menu. L, D, B/W, RA, O, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- The Hilltop 2030 Wells Rd., Orange Park (272-5959). A true Orange Park landmark, the Hilltop serves classic American fare like prime rib, stuffed grouper and shrimp and scallops New Orleans. Seven banquet rooms and a piano bar. D, FB, \, RA, BR, TO, \, \, \, \\$, \$\$, ALL.
- Juliette's Bistro Omni Jacksonville Hotel, 245 Water St., Downtown (355-6664). Offering casual dining in an upscale environment. Serving fresh seafood and hand-cut Buckhead beef. Open air atrium. Upscale. B, L, D, FB, Y, RA, VP, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

McAlister's Deli 9700 Deerlake Ct., Southside (564-2377; mcalistersdeli.com); 1615 Hwy. 220, No. 180, Orange Park (278-6055). Quick-serve and casual dining presented in a family-friendly atmosphere. Menu offers dozens of sandwiches, enormous baked potatoes with toppings, salads, soups and sweets. And don't forget to try their famous sweet tea. L, D, O, TO, \$, ALL.

- Metro Diner 3302 Hendricks Ave., San Marco (398-3701). The interior atmosphere is reminiscent of the art deco era, with black and silver vintage bar stools overlooking an open kitchen where cooks flip pancakes and burgers. Don't forget to check the blackboard for breakfast and lunch specials. B, L, SB, O, BR, TO, ALL, \$.
- Mojo Bar-B-Que 1607 University Blvd. W., Lakewood (732-7200, mojobbq.com); 1500 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach (247-6636); 1810 Town Center Blvd., Orange Park (264-0636). Specializing in Southern-style BBQ, Mojo is a casual, down-home kind of place featuring favorites like North Carolina pork shoulder, Texas beef brisket, Delta catfish and buttermilk fried chicken. Full catering services, live music (Beaches only). Beer and wine only at Lakewood location. L, D, FB, Y, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- O.C. White's Seafood & Spirits 118 Avenida Menendez, St. Augustine (824-0808). Dine upstairs, on the balcony or in the tropical courtyard of a building dating back to 1790. Maryland crab cakes, coconut shrimp, grouper and bruschetta round out an extensive menu. The restaurant's White Room is suitable for receptions and other special events. L, D, SB, FB, \,, RA, O, BR, TO, \, &, \$\$, ALL.
- PLAE 80 Amelia Village Cir., Amelia Island (277-2132). Surprisingly trendy for conservative Amelia Island, this "adult contemporary" restaurant caters to People who like to Laugh And Eat (P-L-A-E, get it?). Customer favorites include grilled shrimp with mustard vinaigrette, pistachio encrusted lamb loin and tuna tartare with avocado wasabi. Upscale. D, FB, Y, RA, O, BR, 1, &, \$\$\$, AX, MC, V.



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Quick Guide

Select North Florida Restaurants

The Reef 4100 Coastal Hwy. A1A, St. Augustine (824-8008). Casual oceanside dining serving shrimp egg rolls, crab cakes, herbed tuna, Louisiana smoked pork chops and daily specials. Also noteworthy, every table has an ocean view. L, D, SB, FB, Y, RA, O, BR, TO, 1, &, \$\$, ALL.

River City Brewing Company 835 Museum Cir., Southbank (398-2299; rivercitybrew.com). It wouldn't matter if RCBC served salisbury steak, TV dinners and stale corn chips: Folks would still flock to the riverfront restaurant for the view alone. Fortunately, the menu, which includes jambalaya, jumbo roasted Mayport shrimp and roasted prime rib, and the over-the-top Sunday brunch buffet are also "see-worthy." Microbrewery. L, D, SB, FB, Y, RA, RS, O, BR, VP, TO, 1, &, \$\$\$, ALL. s

Sterlings 3551 St. Johns Ave., Avondale (387-**0700**). Upscale neighborhood landmark serving a diverse menu including New Zealand rack of lamb, Szechuan tuna, soft-shell crab, fried green tomatoes and veal. Two private banquet rooms. Courtyard patio dining. L, D, SB, FB, Y, 1, RA, RS, O, BR, TO, &, \$\$\$\$, ALL.

Stonewood Grill & Tavern 3832 Baymeadows Rd., Baymeadows (739-7206); 950 Marsh Landing Pkwy., Ponte Vedra Beach (285-2311). Serving Emerald Bay crab cakes, oak-grilled citrus salmon, herb-encrusted lamb, pork Adirondack and oak-grilled filet mignon. Reserve wine list. D, FB, Y, TO, 忠, \$\$\$, ALL.

Urban Flats 330 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach (280-5515: www.urbanflats.net). Casual but cut-

*** \$10 & 100 Words ***



Celebrating its one-year anniversary this month, the **Fickle Pickle** (7860 Gate lunch seven days a week. The quaint oneat the counter and eat at the 10 or so tables in the room. The menu is just as simplethough vast—with a wide selection of break-fast sandwiches and 19 specialty subs, diner's. Among our favorites are the Whole-Lotta Goodness and the Smothered Bird. For lunch recently, we had the Rajun Cajun (a variation of the turkey sandwich) and soda. And, of course, each meal comes with a pickle. Check: \$8.11. *J —by Holli Welch

continued.

ting-edge bistro style menu featuring signature "flats," small plates, salads and "flatwiches." More than 20 wines by-the-glass and more than 70 by-the-bottle. Full bar. L, D, FB, Υ , O, TO, Υ , &, \$\$, ALL.

CONTINENTAL

- Beech Street Grill 801 Beech St., Fernandina Beach (277-3662). Located in a restored 19th century home in historic Fernandina Beach, this fine dining establishment caters to guests seeking comfort in their cuisine with entrées like grilled tenderloin of beef with apple-smoked bacon and sautéed lobster and crab Savannah over linguine. Upscale. D, FB, RA, RS, BR, TO, ↓, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- **Bistro Aix & Lounge 1440 San Marco Blvd.,** San Marco (398-1949; www.bistrox.com). Arguably the hippest restaurant in town, San Marco's Bistro Aix (pronounced "X," FYI) is stylish, yet unpretentious, in both décor and menu. The Mediterranean and French-inspired fare includes grilled lamb T-bone and oak-fired fish "Aixoise." If you can find a seat at the glowing martini bar, you won't even mind a wait for a table. L, D, FB, Y, O, BR, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Brett's Waterway Café Fernandina Harbor Marina at the foot of Centre St., Fernandina Beach (261-2660). Serving an eclectic mix of Southern regional cusine with an emphasis on local seafood and aged beef. *Wine Spectator* award-winner for four years. Seasonal outdoor seating. Casual. L, D, FB, \, RA, O, BR, TP, ↓, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- Collage Restaurant 60 Hypolita St., St. Augustine (829-0055). Located in the cozy building that formerly held La Parisienne, this new eatery offers a menu laced with local seafood, beef tenderloin with Vidalia and gorgonzola sauce, New York strip with black pepper molasses glaze and rack of lamb. Upscale. L, D, B/W, RA, RS, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- **Dwight's Bistro 1527 Penman Rd., Jacksonville Beach (241-4496; www.dwightsbistro.com).** Petite Mediterranean-style bistro, chef-owned and operated for over 10 years, serving fresh ravioli and pasta, "world famous" crab cakes, grilled quail, filet mignon, veal and lamb. D, B/W, RS, \$\$\$, AX, MC, V.
- Matthew's at San Marco 2107 Hendricks Ave., San Marco (396-9922). As the only AAA Four Diamond and Mobil Four Star-winning restaurant in North Florida, Matthew's has established itself as the go-to restaurant for culinary creativity and contemporary elegance, not to mention 450 wine selections. Upscale. D, B/W, RA, RR, BR, TO, と, \$\$\$, ALL.
- **The Melting Pot 7860 Gate Parkway, Southside** (642-4900). "Dip into something different," is the catch phrase at this popular fondue franchise. Most diners approach meals as group efforts, sharing courses in the traditional fondue style. Highlights include aged cheeses, boutique wines, seafood, steak and warm chocolate for dessert. D, FB, \, BR, RA, \\$\$, ALL.
- North Beach Bistro 725 Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach (372-4105). Chic Beaches eatery features unique cocktails and extensive wine list, serving dishes like osso buco with mushroom and truffle

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Moon River Pizza $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \oplus \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \oplus \overline{\mathbb{M}}$	
1176-2 Edgewood Ave., S. • 389-4442	
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1537 Margaret St. • 355-4434	
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1396 Beach Blvd. • 249-4776 <i>continued</i>	
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risotto, slow-braised Angus short ribs and risotto croquettes. Catering available. Casual. D, FB, Υ , RS, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

Ocean 60 60 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach (247-0060). Chef-owned, CIA-certified restaurant serving shrimp and goat cheese spadini, Costa Rican shrimp ceviche, seafood chowder, whole fried fish and veal Montrachet. Upscale. Martini room with live music Wed-Sat. D, FB, Ÿ, RS, TO, ₯, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

Opus 39 Restaurant & Food Gallery 39 Cordova St., St. Augustine (824-0402, www.opus39.com). Menu changes frequently at this Oldest City fine dining landmark, but expect dishes such as pan-seared scallops with parmigian gnocchi and grilled beef tenderloin. Five-course tasting menu changes daily. Over 500 boutique wines, available by the glass, bottle or retail purchase. D, RA, RS, O, &, \$\$\$\$, ALL.

- **The Row Restaurant 1521 Riverside Ave., Riverside (354-5080).** Cuisine at the Riverdale Inn's on-site restaurant is Continental with a Southern flair with entrées like grey grouper topped with fried oysters and grilled center-cut pork chops with mango dried cherry chutney. Upscale. B, D, FB, Y, RA, RS, O, BR, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- Salt 4750 Amelia Island Pkwy., The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island (277-1100). Patrons can expect a seasonally driven menu and a weekly tasting menu. Sample of starter items might include appetizers such as Hawaiian tuna tartare with tomato water and homemade avocado sorbet, and marinated peekeytoe crab with mango and caviar. Desserts range from vanilla crème brulée foam with pineapple carpaccio to piña colada sorbet to vanilla froth-topped tiramisu. Ocean view. D, SB, FB, RS, VP, &, \$\$\$\$, ALL.
- Wine Cellar 1314 Prudential Dr., Southbank (398-8989, winecellarjax.com). A lot has changed in the neighborhood since Wine Cellar opened its doors in 1974. A *Jacksonville Magazine* Top 25 restaurant, it remains a choice spot for business lunches. The menu is Continental with a flair for things like jumbo lump crab cakes, salmon burgers, homemade parmesan zucchini fries and beef tenderloin. Not surprisingly, the wine list is tops and the décor matches its European roots. L, D, RA, RS, FB, O, BR, \$\$\$, ALL.

CUBAN

Havana-Jax Café 2578 Atlantic Blvd., San Marco (399-0609). For more than a decade, Havana-Jax has been *the* place for authentic Cuban food (think arroz con pollo, ropa vieja, Cuban sandwiches, black bean soup) in Northeast Florida. Guests are also treated to the "Cuban dining experience," which we can only assume means friendly service, large portions and not laughing at customers when they try to remember their high school Spanish vocabulary. L, D, FB, Y, BR, ↑, &, \$\$, ALL.

FRENCH

Pastiche 4260 Herschel St., Avondale (387-6213; mypastiche.com). Chef-owned Avondale charmer features French-influenced American cuisine that varies with the seasons. The covered patio in the garden is great for lunch. Try the sweet potato fries. Casual. L, D, B/W, RS, O, BR, TO, γ , &, \$\$\$, ALL.

Restaurant Orsay 3630 Park St., Avondale (381-0909; restaurantorsay.com). New bistro serves a variety of French favorites including croque madame, steak tartare, mussels frites, coq au vin and house-made pates. Upscale. D, SB, FB, RS, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

FUSION/GLOBAL

- 95 Cordova 95 Cordova St., Casa Monica Hotel, St. Augustine (827-1888). This Morocco-themed restaurant located in the lobby of the Casa Monica Hotel also combines American, Asian, Mediterranean and Caribbean influences. The decadent six-course tasting menu is a favorite with adventurous diners. B, L, D, SB, FB, Y, RA, RS, O, BR, VP, TO, ↓, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- Blue Bamboo 3820 Southside Blvd., Southside (646-1478; www.bluebamboojacksonville.com). Innovative menu features miso-marinated salmon, lemongrass crab cakes, Cantonese orange duck, Ahi tuna salad and Mandarin orange cake. Wine lounge. Patio dining. Casual. L, D, B/W, RA, O, BR, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Bonito Grill & Sushi 614 Centre St., Fernandina Beach (261-0508). Featuring a fusion of American and Asian cuisine. Serving broiled Chilean sea bass with red miso rub, soba noodles with sautéed seafood, and Long Island duck with wasabi teriyaki. L, D, FB, Y, RA, RS, TO, と, \$\$\$, AX, MC, V.
- Fu Hao Bistro 1001 Park St., Riverside (798-8686). This new, inexpensive eatery offers a wide variety of tasty Asian cuisine. Featured menu items include glazed walnut shrimp, crispy whole fish, phoenix on the summit, Thai-style Chilean sea bass, and pad Thai. Casual. L, D, BW, (liquor license), RA, TO, &, \$\$, ALL
- Roy's 2400-101 S. 3rd St., Jacksonville Beach (241-7697). Roy Yamaguchi's Hawaiian fusion cuisine blends seafood with European sauces and bold Asian spices, creating innovative dishes such as yellow-fin Ahi poketini, hibachi-style grilled salmon and slow-braised short ribs. Upscale. D, BR, VP, FB, Y, RS, &, \$\$\$\$, ALL.

GREEK/MEDITERRANEAN

Athens Café 6271 St. Augustine Rd., Suite 7, Southside (733-1199). Menu features authentic Greek dishes, rack of lamb, rack of veal, whole snapper, chicken and seafood entrées. À la carte food and wine menu. Family, L, D, B/W, RA, BR, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.

Hovan Mediterranean 2005-1 Park St., Riverside (381-9394). Casual and quick in the midst of the bustling Five Points shopping district. Serving gyro sandwiches, falafel, hummus, chicken kabobs and Hovan rolls. Pet-friendly with outdoor seating. L, D, B/W, O, TO, &, \$, ALL.

Mediterranea 3877 Baymeadows Rd., Baymeadows (731-2898; greek-restaurant.com). The family-run restaurant serves all the Greek classics—souvlaki, spinach pie, moussaka and veal medallions. Seafood choices include fried calamari, mussels marinara and grouper. Greek. L, D, B/W, RA, O, BR, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

Zaitoon Mediterranean Grill 13475 Atlantic Blvd., Ste. 40, Intracoastal West (221-7066; www.zaitoongrill.com). Extensive menu reflects the rich, regional diversity of the Mediterranean and features dishes such as beef kebabs, Sicilian chicken, spanikopita, falafel, tabouli and baba ghannouj. Large parties welcome. Inside the Harbour Village Shopping Center. L, D, FB, RA, O, TO, ₯ &, \$\$, ALL.

HEALTHFUL/ORGANIC

- Healthy Way Cafe St. Johns Town Center, Suite 185 (642-2951, www.healthycafe.com). Organic food is the calling card here. Roasted veggie wraps, organic fruit salad, Mediterranean sandwiches, and an organic banana split. Plus, beer and wine, full-service bar, smoothies—all organic, of course. L, D, B/W, RA, O, VP, TO, 1, &, \$, ALL.
- Native Sun Natural Foods Market 11030 Baymeadows Rd. (260-2791); 10000 San Jose Blvd. (260-6950; www.nativesunjax.com). Certified



The Bungalow on Park (*2782 Park St., 374-1066*) looks exactly as the name sounds. The cozy restaurant has low ceilings and white wood-trimmed windows. Doubling as an art gallery, the dining room's walls are adorned with photographs, paintings and drawings by local artists—something nice to look at while you eat. Regular menu items include a mushroom-swiss burger (\$6) with a choice of homemade sides (we recommend the potato salad and sweet potato fries) and fettuccine (\$14). On a recent visit, we had the tofu salad (\$7.50) and fresh-squeezed limeade (\$3.50). With a decent helping of browned tofu atop mixed greens, the salad is a good choice for vegetarians (and the limeade was made with sparkling water). Look for daily specials and a two-for-one happy hour. The Bungalow is closed on Mondays and open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday, for brunch and dinner on the weekend. **Check: \$14**

The Hilltop



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Stonewood Grill & Tavern ⊕ ☆ ∑ ⇔ ♥ ₩ ↔ ☞ Marsh Landing Pkwy. @ JTB • 285-2311
Urban Flats 😚 🍸 🕽 के 🗁 ౨) 🕅 🖓 330 A1A N. ● 280-5515
San Marco/Southbank
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Pepper's Mexican Grill & Cantina 🕅 🗁 🕽 👪 🗫

b.b 1019 Bistro Aix & Lounge 🕕 🕽 🖑 🍄 😂 🎔 🕅 🖓 KŴI 1440 San Marco Blvd. • 398-1949 Chart House 🌒 🕽 😭 🍸 👄 🎔 🔍 👭 🗫 🕬 1501 Riverplace Blvd. • 398-3353 continued. organic supermarket with full deli and hot bar serving rotisserie chicken, vegan sushi, crab cakes, dumplings, wraps, salads, soups and more. Market offers fresh organic produce, meat and seafood, baked goods and smoothies, with indoor and outdoor seating and party platters.

Turtle Island Natural Foods 363 Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach (247-6400; turtleislandfoods.com). Fresh, fabulous food is served at this full-service, organic market. With quick lunches and special event catering, Turtle Island offers upscale healthy eats. Seafood, poultry, vegan, raw and gluten-free selections. Organic produce, wine, beer, cheeses, dips, bulk foods. L, D, B/W, O, TO, \$, ALL.

INDIAN

India's Restaurant 9802-8 Baymeadows Rd. (620-0777). The lunch buffet is a favorite at this family-run staple of the Baymeadows dining scene. The menu is both mild and spicy, featuring traditional dishes like lamb korma, fish vindaloo, shrimp bhoona and chicken tikka masala. Casual. L, D, B/W, RA, BR, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.

ITALIAN

Al's Pizza 303 Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach (249-0002; www.alspizza.com) plus five other area locations. Al's is casual with a menu chock-full of pizza, calzones and pasta dishes. But its slick and funky atmosphere, not to mention

* Kitchen Gadget *



Hot or cold, tea can be enjoyed year-round, but in the spring and summer, nothing beats a refreshing glass of ice tea. The Bodum Ceylon Ice Tea Jug—a clear plastic pitcher equipped with a filter that keeps whole tea leaves from spilling into your glass—takes brewing to a new level. Place tea leaves or (\$20) and 102 oz. (\$30), the jug can also be

HOURS: Sun-Thur 11am-2am; Fri & Sat 11am-4am

Dine In, Take Out, Delivery & Catering Available

unexpected dishes like mussels in wine and garlic butter sauce, also make it a favorite with foodies who normally wouldn't dine at a pizza joint. Casual. L, D, B/W, O, TO, &, \$, ALL.

- Broadway Ristorante & Pizzeria 10920 Baymeadows Rd., Suite 103, Baymeadows (519-8000, broadwayfl.com). Huge menu is laced with all your Italian faves including hand-tossed pizzas baked in a brick oven, calzones, strombolis, penne a la vodka, antipasta and more. Open until 2 AM and later. L, D, B/W, RA, O, TO, &, \$, ALL.
- Gelato Classico 530-3 SR 13 N., Fruit Cove (230-8608). More than 30 flavors of gelato and sorbet are served on fine porcelain dessertware, as are the various New York-style pastries. O, TO, &, \$, ALL.
- **Giovanni's 1161 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach** (249-7787). Traditional to contemporary Italian including entrées like spaghetti with a tomato, saffron seafood stew of clams, mussels, shrimp, squid and scallops. D, FB, Y, RA, RS, BR, VP, 1, と, \$\$\$, AX, MC, V.
- Luigi's Italian Restaurant 5912 University Blvd., W., Southside (731-0338). Serving Jacksonville since 1975 with traditional Italian dinners, lasagna, eggplant parmigiana, chicken parmigiana, pizza, meatball cheese sub. Family. L, D, B/W, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Mezza Luna Restaurant 110 1st St., Neptune Beach (249-5573). Serving chianti-braised short ribs, Mayport shrimp and artisinal grits, lemongrass champagne-poached halibut as well as

daily specials. Kids can make their own pizza. Casual yet upscale. D, FB, Υ , RA, RS, O, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

- Moon River Pizza 1176-2 Edgewood Ave., S. (389-4442); 925 S. 14th St., Fernandina Beach (321-3400). Serving pizzas, calzones, salads and breadsticks. Variety of beer and wine by the bottle and glass. L, D, B/W, TO, &, \$, D, MC, V.
- Sorrento 6937 St. Augustine Rd., San Jose (636-9196). Menu highlighted by Neopolitan cuisine including snapper Francese, veal Positano supreme, sausage and peppers, chicken scallopini, eggplant parmigiana and tiramisu. D, B/W, RA, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.

JAPANESE

- Crazy Sushi 4320 Deerwood Lake Pkwy., #202, Southside (998-9797). Serving hibachi steak, shrimp tempura, chicken katsu, tuna tataki and the "Love Boat." Casual. L, D, B/W, RA, RS, BR, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Sake House 824 Lomax St. and 1507 Margaret St., Riverside (301-1188); Sake House II 1478 Riverplace Blvd., San Marco (306-2188). San Marco and Five Points receive an infusion of Japanese flavors with a lengthy sushi menu, shrimp tempura, grilled steak and a sushi bar. Casual and upscale. L, D, B/W, RA, RS, O, BR, TO, T, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Sushi Café 2025 Riverside Ave., Riverside (384-2888; sushicafejax.com). Given its name, there is no confusion as to what's served at this

Riverside eatery. The sushi list includes a handful of locally-inspired rolls like the Jax (a California roll with eel) and the Jaguar (eel and avocado deep-fried). The menu also includes hibachi, tempura, katsu and teppan meals. L, D, B/W, O, \$\$, ALL.

Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse 10206 River Coast Dr., St. Johns Town Center (997-6528; wasabi-steakhouse.com). Swanky steakhouse specializes in hibachi-style cooking and sushi. Early bird specials are popular. L, D, FB, Y, RA, O, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

MEXICAN/SOUTHWESTERN

- Burrito Gallery 21 E. Adams St., Downtown (598-2922). The secret to getting a table for lunch at the popular Downtown eatery? Arrive early. The restaurant and art gallery offers the Tex-Mex standards—tacos, taco salads, quesadillas, nachos, burritos, chili and deli wraps. Dine inside or out for lunch or dinner. Happy hour runs Wednesday through Saturday. L, D, FB, Y, O, BR, TO, &, \$, ALL.
- Cantina Laredo 10282 Bistro Dr., St. Johns Town Center (997-6110; cantinalaredo.com). The Town Center eatery specializes in fresh fish, beef fajitas, tacos al carbon, grilled ribeye steak, chicken enchiladas and shrimp flautas. Upscale. L, D, SB, FB, Ÿ, RS, O, BR, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.
- Don Juan's Restaurant 12373 San Jose Blvd., Mandarin (268-8722; donjuansjax.com).



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4100 Coastal Hwy. ● 824-8008 The Tasting Room ● 2 ♥ 5 ♀ K⊗I
25 Cuna St. • 810-2400

The menu at this family-owned sit-down restaurant features all the Mexican standards—fajitas, chimichangas and carne asada—but the twofor-one happy hour specials are a real treat. Patio area. Casual. L, D, FB, O, BR, TO, 1, &,\$\$, ALL.

Mossfire Grill 1537 Margaret St., Riverside (355-4434). New American and Southwestern cuisine come together at this Five Points fave famous for its blackened tuna tacos, homemade crab cakes and the fattest burritos this side of the Pecos. The upstairs lounge houses the city's only tequila bar. L, D, FB, Y, O, BR, TO, V, &, \$\$, V, MC, AX.

Pablo's Mexican Restaurant 12 N. 2nd St., Fernandina Beach (261-0049). Downtown Fernandina's dining scene gets some needed spice with a menu packed with dishes like carne tampiqueña, enchiladas, fajitas, fish tacos and tortilla soup. L, D, FB, Y, RA, O, BR, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.

Pepper's Mexican Grill & Cantina 13475 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville (221-2300). Authentic Mexican cuisine with a family-friendly atmosphere. And, they have great nachos. The fish tacos are a signature item, as are the appropriately sizzling fajita skillets. Serving wine and beer and take-out service. L,D, FB, TO, \$\$, ALL.

TacoLu Baja Mexicana 1183 Beach Blvd. (249-TACOS). Offering a blend of Baja-style cuisine in a casual sit-down eatery, this beaches restaurant offers a new twist on the traditional taco. But, what really sets it apart from the pack is its selection of over 50 types of tequila. L, D, SB, FB, 学, O, TO, と, \$, ALL.

West Inn Cantina 3644 St. Johns Ave., Avondale (389-1131). Neighborhood hangout serves South-of-the-Border flavors like honey lime chicken, shrimp fiesta with peppers and onions, fajitas, steaks and seafood. Outside heated patio. L, D, FB, Y, O, TO, 𝔅, 𝔅, \$, ALL.

MIDDLE EASTERN

Casbah 3628 St. Johns Ave., Avondale (981-9966; www.thecasbahcafe.com). Diners seeking a Middle Eastern experience will find it at this Avondale restaurant and lounge. In addition to a menu of traditional fare such as baba ghannoush and fried kibbie, guests can enjoy aromatic tobacco in the hookah lounge, as well as live belly dancing Thursday through Saturday nights. L, D, B/W, O, TO, ↑, &, \$\$, AX, MC, V.

PUBS

O'Brothers Irish Pub 1521 Margaret St., Riverside (854-9300). From the owners of Mossfire Grill, O'Brothers offers a true "pub" atmosphere where patrons can enjoy a pint, eat delicious food and play shuffle board. The menu includes Irish staples like shepherd's pie and fish and chips as well as treats like Guinness mac and cheese and lamb burger. Outdoor seating and full bar service. Casual. L, D, FB, Y, O, TO, 小, &, \$\$, ALL.

<u>SEAFOOD</u>

The Blue Crab 3057 Julington Creek Rd., Julington Creek (260-2722). This casual restau-

*** FrontBurner ***

The Amsterdam Lounge, a new restaurant and hookah lounge at 11380 Beach percent off their meals. • Speaking of . Mediterranean food, **Wafaa and Mike's** in Springfield serves some mean falafel. The Springfield Station Bar & Grill. • The Tallahassee-based **Red Elephant Pizza** and Grill was scheduled to open its first Blvd. in Mandarin. • Looks like a Mellow **Mushroom** is going in next to the Harry's on Third Street in Jacksonville Beach. According to the pizza chain's website, the third location on the First Coast.• Morton's The Steakhouse now offers a menu that allows customers to eat and drink for as low as \$19. The bar-only menu includes \$4 beers, \$5 wines and \$7 cocktails along with Morton's Prime Sirloin Burger for \$15. • **The Wine Bar**, around the corner from Chicago Pizza and across the street from The Ritz in Jacksonville Beach, opened eardecent beer and wine selection. • Also at the beach, European Delights is a cozy deli at the corner of 11th Avenue North and The Lemon Bar has reopened for the season. • The TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, open to the public, hosts a daily happy hour half-price, while Ketel One martinis are \$5. • Linge, formerly known as Urban Golf holds a daily happy hour from 3 to 7 PM: \$2 draft and bottled beers, \$6 domestic pitchers and \$1 off all wines by the glass. Uptown 21 is a new hip-hop and R&B dance club off of Interstate 95 and Bowden Road. With a 3,000-square-foot dance floor, K-Ci & JoJo. • Let's Nosh, a breakfast and Boulevard just south of Baymeadows Road. • **Coffee Roasters**, which has a Mandarin the 5,200-square-foot **Oral Explosion** Eateries food court on San Marco ants include JP Lee's Asian Bistro Ray's Pizza, Flavors Indian Cuisine and Deli Deli. • Miller's Ale House is adding a fifth Jacksonville location near the Hill, Plaza III The Steakhouse inside the Hyatt Regency downtown, Café Carmon in San Marco, Red Chilies in Baymeadows, **Bamboo Creek** in Tinseltown. ***J**

rant concentrates on seafood by offering a variety of crab delicacies such as steamed crab legs, as well as shrimp and fish. Numerous menu standouts draw influences from the Chesapeake Bay area—quarter-pound crab cakes and stuffed crab delight. Outdoor seating, private party room. D, SB, O, BR, FB, RA, AX, V, MC, \$\$, ALL.

- Cap's On the Water 4325 Myrtle St., Vilano Beach, St. Augustine (824-8794). Waterfront eatery serving stilton salad, vanilla grouper, pepper hanger steak, crab and scallop pasta and miso calamari. Oyster bar. Casual. L, D, FB, BR, TO, ♣, \$\$\$, AX, MC, V.
- **Chart House 1501 Riverplace Blvd., Southbank** (398-3353; www.chart-house.com). The exterior of the waterfront restaurant is probably the most unusual in town. Inside, the Chart House is a dramatic, dimly-lit, dinner-only restaurant best known for its seafood, prime rib, salad bar and Hot Chocolate Lava Cake. Upscale. D, FB, 学, RA, RS, BR, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- Crab Cake Factory Seafood Bar, Grill, Restaurant 1396 Beach Blvd., Intracoastal West (249-4776, crabcakefactoryjax.com). The distinctive taste of Chesapeake Bay's famous blue crabs is highlighted in more than a dozen dishes at the sprawling, family-friendly eatery. Oysters Rockefeller, crab martini, smoked salmon, clams casino—the menu is extensive and offers a little something for everyone. L, D, FB, RA, TO, BR, &, \$\$, ALL.
- JL Trent's Seafood & Grill Three locations: 4553 120th St. (908-4202); 8968 103rd St. (908-8355); 8299 W. Beaver St. (781-8410). The original Trent's across the street from NAS Jax is a classic American seafood joint serving all your fried favorites, crab legs, lobster, whole catfish and shrimp. The fried pickles are the house specialty. L, D, B/W, TO, &, \$\$, MC, V.
- LuLu's Waterfront Grille 301 N. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach (285-0139). Perched on the banks of the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Valley, this casual restaurant is known for its local seafood dishes like steamed garlic clams and Chef Jeff's New England clam chowder. Its true claim to fame is its waterfront "driving range." L, D, SB, FB, Y, O, TO, &, \$\$, AX, MC, V.
- Mitchell's Fish Market St. Johns Town Center (645-3474; mitchellsfishmarket.com). Upscale but casual restaurant near JTB features a menu 80 dishes long highlighted by items such as Little Neck clam chowder, broiled sea scallops, pecan-crusted mountain trout, garlic broiled shrimp and lemon pepper grilled chicken. L, D, FB, Y, BR, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- Pusser's Bar and Grille 816 A1A N., Shoppes of Veranda, Ponte Vedra Beach (280-7766, www.pussersusa.com). Chris Delay, Pusser's executive chef and native Ponte Vedran, has put together an innovative menu that truly has something for everyone, with entrées starting at \$10. Serves lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch, with a two-for-one happy hour Monday through Friday from 4 to 7 PM. L, D, FB, \, RA, O, VP, TO, \, &, \$\$\$, ALL.
- Whitey's Fish Camp 2032 County Rd. 220, Orange Park (269-4198). Open for more than 40

