

the Guide

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Duck confit hash with fingerling potatoes, soft fried eggs, fresh sage and Tabasco beurre rouge from Orsay

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nightlife



Cuba Libre

Nightlife Key

OPEN TILL 2 A.M.	LIVE MUSIC
DJ & DANCING	SPORTS BAR
HAPPY HOUR	COVER CHARGE
ATM ON PREMISES	GOOD FOR GROUPS

32 BARS, NIGHTCLUBS & MUSIC VENUES

- The Atlantic** 🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵
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** 🎵🎵🎵
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** 💵
Ramada Inn Mandarin, I-295 and San Jose Blvd., Mandarin, 292-4242. Headliners such as Ralphie May and Doug Benson, dinner buffet.
- Cuba Libre** 🎵🎵🎵🎵
Havana-Jax, 2578 Atlantic Blvd., St. Nicholas, 399-0609. DJ Latin, salsa and merengue music, dance lessons Thursdays, Cuban cuisine.
- Crazy Horse** 🎵🎵🎵🎵
1241 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, 213-0606. Three dance clubs under one roof, country, disco and hip-hop DJs.
- Fionn MacCool's Irish Pub** 🎵🎵
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** 🎵🎵🎵
200 First St. N., Jacksonville Beach, 246-2473. Live local rock bands, regional acts, touring bands.
- Harmonious Monks** 🎵
10550 Old St. Augustine Rd., Mandarin, 880-3040. Singing servers every Thursday-Saturday, karaoke, dancing encouraged.
- Island Girl Cigar Bar** 🎵🎵🎵
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** 🎵🎵🎵
Neptune Beach, 246-2175. Trendy watering hole located oceanside behind the Sea Horse Oceanfront Inn.
- The London Bridge** 🎵🎵
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** 🎵🎵🎵
Upstairs at The Jacksonville Landing, Downtown, 356-1110. Rock n'honky tonk, country music acts.
- Metro** 🎵🎵🎵
2929 Plum St., Riverside, 388-8719. Female impersonation revues every Wednesday through Sunday, karaoke, multiple bars and dance floors.
- Mill Top Tavern** 🎵
19 1/2 St. George St., St. Augustine, 829-2329. Acoustic musicians, blue grass bands nightly.
- Monkey's Uncle** 🎵
10601 San Jose Blvd., Mandarin, 260-1349. Various acoustic, country, rock performers on weekends, karaoke.
- Ocean Club** 🎵🎵
401 First St., Jacksonville Beach, 242-8884. DJ dance club, house, Top 40, reggae, old wave, '70s disco, hip-hop and more.
- Palace Saloon** 🎵🎵
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** 🎵🎵
1101 N. Main St., Downtown, 791-4449. DJ dance music, "enchanted forest" theme.
- Ragtime Tavern** 🎵
207 Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach, 241-7877. Mainstay of the Beaches music scene. Hosts blues, jazz and rock acts Wednesday-Sunday.
- The Ritz** 🎵
139 3rd. Ave., Jacksonville Beach, 246-2255. DJ dance music nightly, funk, '80s pop, alternative, etc.
- The Roadhouse** 🎵🎵
231 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, 264-0611. Long-time Orange Park pub presents local and regional rock bands Thursday-Saturday.
- Square One** 🎵🎵
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** 🎵
8206 Philips Hwy., Baymeadows, 733-8085. Posh upscale club, dress code enforced.
- The Twisted Martini** 🎵🎵
Jacksonville Landing, Downtown, 353-8464; DJ dance music, salsa and disco nights, tapas menu.
- West Inn Cantina** 🎵🎵
3644 St. Johns Ave., Avondale, 389-1131. Open mic nights, rock and acoustic acts. *J

BRADLEY STOOKEY

FRED SEELY

review

Viva La France

Avondale's stylish Orsay restaurant pleases the palate.

Americans always have had a yearning to be like the French, even while we whine about their loyalties (remember "Freedom Fries"?), their attempts to show superiority and their sissified ways.

Some of our affectations are understandable: Wouldn't you rather eat "pork" (derived from the French "porc") than "pig"? Doesn't "beef" (boeuf) sound better than "cow"?

But, still, do we have to serve "haricots verts" rather than "green beans"? Why do we say "bon appetit"? Isn't there an American word for "buffet"? (And don't suggest the Swedish "smorgasbord" because: a) We can't spell it, and b) We don't know how to put those little dots above the "o" and the "a.") And what's a beignet, anyway? We even like to say things like "Ah, monsieur" and "Sacrebleu," not knowing that we sound like Peter Sellers' Inspector Jacques Clouseau.

So now comes **Orsay** (3630 Park St., 381-0909), a restaurant on the outer edge of Avondale that takes the Park Street spot once occupied by the food-good, management-lousy Crush. It's run by the same people who have the well-liked and not-so-well-named Chew downtown—at both places, they know what they're doing.

Ah, monsieur, Orsay is indeed French, from its menu to its wine list to its décor. You can order up bouillabaisse, croque madame, duck confit and, of course, pomme frites, while you sip a selection from the Château de Parenchère list. It's busy, just noisy enough and fun.

If you went to Crush, you'll know your way around the restaurant as things are pretty much in the same place: the hostess is to your left, the open kitchen is way over to the left and the bar is straight ahead. The bathrooms are through an opening to the left of the bar; keep going and you're in a remodeled back room

Florida strawberry shortcake with thyme macerated strawberries, lemon mascarpone cream and lavender syrup

with a bar and more tables.

The wine menu is extensive (lots of French, of course, but a broad selection) and there's a good beer list. Full bar, too, with top brands.

But it comes down to two things, monsieur, and that's quality and service. Mon ami and sacrebleu, they have both.

Our selections: cod with vegetables and a pork chop with red potatoes and cabbage. (Did your mother make you drink cod liver oil? If so, have you touched anything "cod" since?) Both were delightful (I only attest to the chop, but I have it on good authority).

There may be 15 tables in the front room and, at one point, we counted 14 employees. There were at least five in the kitchen and this was a Thursday night.

True to the European schedule, diners show late (well, late by Jacksonville standards). We were seated at 7:30 PM and only three other tables were taken. An hour later, every table was occupied.

Reservations are recommended. Since Orsay is dinner-only, you can leave your name and needs on a recording and they'll call you to confirm by mid-afternoon.

No one we met with spoke French, which is good, and they keep the pretentiousness to an acceptable level. The restaurant is named after Orsay, an old village near Paris that's best known as one of the post-abdication homes of England's King Edward VIII after he married the divorcée Wallis Simpson.

The food presentation is very Frenchy, shallow bowls with everything in them. A good-enough basket of bread comes with better-than-good butter. Good water; they don't make you feel cheap by offering a choice of bottled water or (if you're unsophisticated) plain old tap water.

Ah, chérie, if only we could get food and service like this in La France, where overcooked chicken, scrawny fries and fawning servers are the norm.

Give it a shot. After the demise of the nearby and worthy 1171 restaurant, we gotta keep what we got, folks, and it's worth the \$60-\$70 you'll drop for dinner for two. *J

Orsay opens at 5 PM, until 10 PM Tuesday through Thursday and until 11 PM Friday to Saturday. Brunch is served on Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM. Closed Monday.

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; **ℵ**– 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

\$\$ — \$11 to \$20

\$\$\$ — \$21 to \$30

\$\$\$\$ — \$31 or above

These \$ categories are based upon the average cost of a dinner entrée excluding drinks, desserts and/or gratuities.

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, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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 breads—pumpkin, 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, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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, ℵ, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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, ℵ, ℵ, \$\$\$, 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, ℵ, \$, 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," miso glazed Chilean sea bass and mesquite grilled certified angus beef tenderloin highlight the menu. L, D, FB, Y, RA, RS, O, BR, VP, TO, ℵ, ℵ, \$\$\$\$, 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 "beer-thirty." Casual. L, D, B/W, O (except 992 Beach Blvd.), TO, ℵ (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, ℵ, ℵ, \$\$\$, ALL.

Heirlooms Bistro 104 Bartram Oaks Walk, Ste. 101, Julington Creek (230-3999). This trendy eatery presents an innovative menu featuring

* Wine & A Movie *



Life is like a complicated puzzle—you're provided with all the right pieces, but you have to figure out how they all fit. The 2003 film *Lost in Translation* pieces together the lives of two strangers: Charlotte, who has reached two huge milestones (college graduation and mar-

riage) and Bob, an aging actor whose family he never sees. Starring Scarlett Johansson and Bill Murray, this Oscar-winning drama explores the emotional affair that develops between the two after they cross paths in modern-day Tokyo. Their bittersweet encounter—significant although brief—pairs well with a glass of **Mura Mura Pear Orchard sake** (\$14), a light rice wine infused with Asian pear flavors that, according to the Oregon maker, is reminiscent of a pinot gris or Riesling. Fresh, tropical notes make the drink go down smoothly, leaving a delicate sweetness that lingers on the tongue. *J —by Liltera R. Williams

golden lobster bisque, citrus-scented salmon filet, 12 oz. New York strip, Thai BBQ pork 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, 1, &, \$\$, 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, ¥, 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, ¥, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.

O.C. White's Seafood & Spirits 118 Avenida

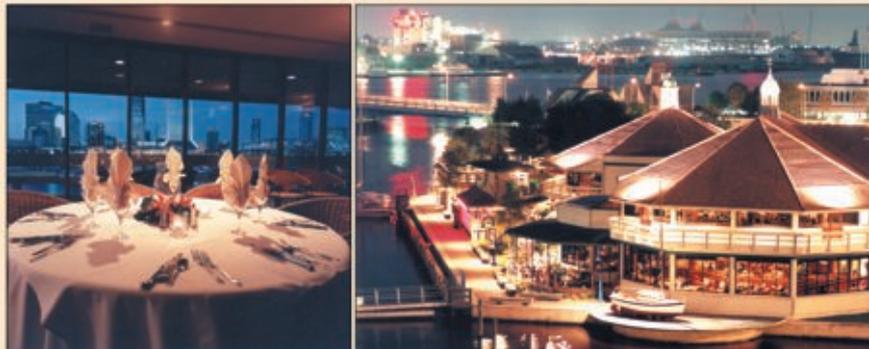
Menendez, St. Augustine (824-0808). Dine upstairs, on the balcony or in the tropical courtyard of a building dating back to 1790. Maryland crab cakes, coconut shrimp, grouper and bruschetta round out an extensive menu. The restaurant's White Room is suitable for receptions and other special events. L, D, SB, FB, ¥, RA, O, BR, TO, 1, &, \$\$, ALL.

PLÆ 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, ¥, RA, O, BR, 1, &, \$\$\$, AX, MC, V.

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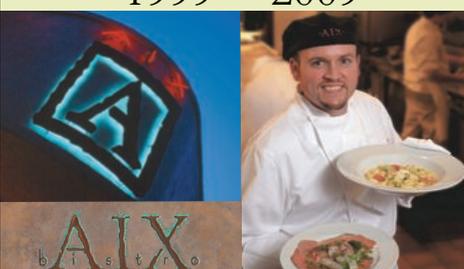
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Quick Guide

Select North Florida Restaurants listed by Neighborhood

ROMANTIC	MUSIC	OPEN AFTER MIDNIGHT
LUNCH, TOO	LARGE PARTIES WELCOME	OUTDOOR SEATING
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED	RESERVATIONS	TAKE OUT
LIQUOR LICENSE	FINE DINING	BUSINESS MEETINGS

Amelia Island/Fernandina Beach

Barbara Jean's 960030 Gateway Blvd. • 277-3700

Beech Street Grill 801 Beech St. • 277-3662

Bonito Grill & Sushi 614 Centre St. • 261-0508

Brett's Waterway Café 1 S. Front St. • 261-2660

Moon River Pizza 925 S. 14th St. • 321-3400

Pablo's Mexican Restaurant 12 N. 2nd St. • 261-0049

PLÆ 80 Amelia Village Cir. • 277-2132

Salt Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island • 277-1100

Arlington/Regency

European Street Cafe 5500 Beach Blvd. • 398-1717

Avondale/Riverside/Westside

13 Gypsies 887 Stockton St. • 389-0330

Al's Pizza 1620 Margaret St. #210 • 388-8384

Biscottis 3556 St. Johns Ave. • 387-2060

The Brick Restaurant 3585 St. Johns Ave. • 387-0606

The Casbah 3628 St. Johns Ave. • 981-9966

Espeto Brazilian Steakhouse 4000 St. Johns Ave. • 388-4884

European Street Cafe 2753 Park St. • 384-9999

Fu Hao Bistro 1001 Park St. 798-8686

Hovan Mediterranean 2005-1 Park St. • 381-9394

continued...

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, ♯, &, \$\$, 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, ♯, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

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, ♯, 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, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

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

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



Primo Burrito (22 Seminole Rd., 247-3999) is super delicioso. The fresh-Mex shack opened in Atlantic Beach earlier this year and serves \$5 made-to-order burritos that are heavy as a brick. You circle what you want on a sheet of paper at the counter and wait. Take-out only but management hopes to open a dining room this month. There are build-your-own quesadillas, nachos and salads. We had the carne asada burrito with rice, black beans, guac and jalapeños and washed it down with a grapefruit Jarrito soda. Life is bueno.

Check: \$7. *J —by Alison Trinidad

cutting-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, Y, O, TO, 1, 2, \$\$\$, 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, 1, 2, \$\$\$, 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, 2, \$\$\$, 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 cuisine with an emphasis on local seafood and aged beef. *Wine Spectator* award-winner for four years. Seasonal outdoor seating. Casual. L, D, FB, Y, RA, O, BR, TP, 1, 2, \$\$\$, 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, 2, \$\$\$, 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, 2, \$\$\$, 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, Y, 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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continued...

risotto, slow-braised Angus short ribs and risotto croquettes. Catering available. Casual. D, FB, Y, 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, Y, 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 peekytoe crab with mango and caviar. Desserts range from vanilla crème brûlée 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

Orsay 3630 Park St., Avondale (381-0909; restaurantorsay.com). 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.

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, ☎, ☎, \$\$\$, 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, ☎, \$\$\$, 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, B/W, 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 ghanouj. 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, ☼, ☼, \$, ALL.

Native Sun Natural Foods Market 11030 Baymeadows Rd. (260-2791); 10000 San Jose Blvd. (260-6950; www.nativesunjax.com). Certified organic supermarket with full deli and hot bar

* Neighborhood Find *



The Pickled Pear Café (1143 S. Edgewood Ave., 389-2811), a luncheonette that specializes in heat-and-eat meals to take home, is nestled in Murray Hill, across the way from Moon River Pizza. The walls are adorned with works for sale by local artists and business cards fill the counter top. With space for only a server and a cook, the eatery has four tables. Locals dine in or take out their lunches and pick up dinners Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 6:30 PM, and until 3 PM on Saturday. The hefty portions are light on the wallet—\$5-\$8 for anything on the menu. Pastries wait next to the front counter, and the kitchen is open to patrons' curious eyes. Traditional deli items like egg salad and Caesar salad are kicked up a notch, giving customers a fresh take on all their favorites. On a recent visit, we ordered chicken salad on a fresh-baked croissant with chips (\$7) and a drink. **Check: \$8.51 *J** —by Renee Robarge

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...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.

*** Kitchen Gadget ***



You don't have to be a tree hugger to want to help the environment these days. You can do your part at home with a gadget like the **NatureMill Plus Edition Automatic Composter** (\$299), which turns most food waste into nutrient rich fertilizer—and it fits in any standard cabinet. Activists-turned-engineers who believed in the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) figured out how to use energy released from "hot composting" technology to destroy odors and pathogens, reducing harmful greenhouse gasses. Energy use is just about 50 cents a month, and compost can be used to feed plants and fruit trees. The composter can be purchased at Target stores, or online at naturemill.com. *J

—by Renee Robarge

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 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, ☺, RA, RS, BR, VP, ☺, ☺, \$\$\$, 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 artisanal grits, lemon-grass champagne-poached halibut as well as daily specials. Kids can make their own pizza. Casual yet upscale. D, FB, ☺, 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, ☺, ☺, \$\$\$, ALL.

Sushi Café 2025 Riverside Ave., Riverside (384-2888; sushicafefax.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, ☺, 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, ☺, O, BR, TO, ☺, \$, ALL.

Cantina Laredo 10282 Bistro Dr., St. Johns Town Center (997-6110; cantinalaredo.com). The



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2578 Atlantic Blvd. • 399-0609
- Matthew's at San Marco** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
2107 Hendricks Ave. • 396-9922
- Metro Diner** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
3302 Hendricks Ave. • 398-3701
- Morton's, The Steakhouse** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
1510 Riverplace Dr. • 396-2188
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1478 Riverplace Blvd. • 306-2188
- Thai Bistro San Marco** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
1974 San Marco Blvd. • 338-0269
- Wine Cellar** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
1314 Prudential Dr. • 398-8989
- Southside/Baymeadows/Town Center**
- Blue Bamboo** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
3820 Southside Blvd. • 646-1478
- Broadway Ristorante** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
10920 Baymeadows Rd. • 579-8000
- Cantina Laredo** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
St. Johns Town Center • 997-6110
- The Capital Grille** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
St. Johns Town Center • 997-9233
- Crazy Sushi** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
4320 Deerwood Lake Pkwy. • 998-9797
- Healthy Way Cafe** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
St. Johns Town Center • 642-2951
- India's Restaurant** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
9802-8 Baymeadows Rd. • 620-0777
- Lemongrass Restaurant** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
9846 Old Baymeadows Rd. • 645-9911
- Luigi's Italian Restaurant** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
5912 University Blvd. • 731-0338
- The Melting Pot** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
7860 Gate Pkwy. • 642-4900
- McAlister's Deli** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
9700 Deer Lake Ct. • 564-2377
- Mitchell's Fish Market** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
St. Johns Town Center • 645-3474
- Native Sun** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
11030 Baymeadows Rd. • 260-2791
- Sangria House** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
4320 Deerwood Lake Pkwy. • 646-2977
- Stonewood Grill & Tavern** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
3832 Baymeadows Rd. • 739-7206
- Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
St. Johns Town Center • 997-6528
- St. Augustine**
- 95 Cordova** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
95 Cordova St. • 827-1888
- Cap's On the Water** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
4325 Myrtle St. • 824-8794
- Collage Restaurant** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
60 Hypolita St. • 829-0055
- Cruiser's Grill** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
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- O.C. White's** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
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39 Cordova St. • 824-0402
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4100 Coastal Hwy. • 824-8008
- The Tasting Room** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺
25 Cuna St. • 810-2400

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, ☺, RS, O, BR, TO, ☺, \$\$, ALL.

Don Juan's Restaurant 12373 San Jose Blvd., Mandarin (268-8722; donjuansjax.com). The menu at this family-owned sit-down restaurant features all the Mexican standards—fajitas, chimichangas and carne asada—but the two-for-one happy hour specials are a real treat. Patio area. Casual. L, D, FB, O, BR, TO, ☺, ☺, \$\$, 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, ☺, O, BR, TO, ☺, ☺, \$\$, 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, ☺, 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 sizzling fajita skilllets. 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, ☺, O, TO, ☺, \$, 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, ☺, O, TO, ☺, \$, 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 ghanoush 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

* FrontBurner *

Karlene's Deli is expanding. At the corner of San Jose Boulevard and Loretto Road, the franchise has three locations in development: Bartram Park, Jacksonville Beach and The Jacksonville Landing. • Looks like Matthew's Market & Catering in San Marco (which closed in January) will reopen as the **Take Away Gourmet**, offering prepared foods at lower prices to take home or eat at the store. • To commemorate its 25th year, **Tidbits** in San Marco offered select menu items for 1985 prices on April 6. • The Southbank's **River City Brewing Company**, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, recently hired a new chef and has added new items to its menu including porcini-dusted sea scallops. Chef Christopher Faurie most recently was executive chef at Roy's in Jacksonville Beach. • **Mark's** on Bay Street offers free happy hour appetizers while they last on Thursdays and Fridays (4:30 to 7:30 PM) • Also Downtown, **Chamblin's Uptown Café** inside the bookstore on North Laura Street is now open seven days a week. • **TJ's & Pat's Deli & Catering** is slated to open in the old Springfield Emporium at the corner of 7th and Main streets, according to the Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council. • Also in Springfield, **Yang's Chinese Take Out** at 9th and Main streets was readying to open in April. • In Riverside, the restaurant at 630 Park St. (most recently a Sharx Wings Grill) is under new ownership and now is called **Skip's Home Cooking Café**. Open only for breakfast and lunch, Skip's is run by a couple formerly from the Riverview Café in the 550 building downtown. • **Walkers**, at the corner of Post and King streets in Riverside, opened in April. Owners of the wine and tapas bar hope to acquire a liquor license soon. • **Orsay** in Avondale started serving Sunday brunch from 11 AM to 4 PM in its lounge. Outdoor seating is available, with live music soon to come. Trust us, the Bloody Mary is divine. • Dennis Chan, owner of **Blue Bamboo** on Southside Boulevard, has introduced "Street Eats Sunday," serving a more casual menu of items that day from 5 to 9 PM. • The **Sticky Fingers** in Atlantic Beach closed for 10 days in April for remodeling and re-opened in May. • In Jacksonville Beach (in what used to be the Florida Marine Patrol Building on 2nd Avenue North), **Crazy Fish** opened April 1. The casual sit-down restaurant has a spectacular view of the Intracoastal, and also serves as a bait and tackle shop with kayak rentals, water sport instruction and fishing charters. The place is open for lunch and dinner starting at 10 AM, closed on Mondays. • In St. Augustine, a family-style, waterfront seafood restaurant called **Aunt Kate's** was set to open where Oscar's Old Florida Grill once stood. Oscar's was destroyed by a fire in 2001. *J

mac and cheese and lamb burger. Outdoor seating and full bar service. Casual. L, D, FB, Y, O, TO, ♣, ⚡, \$\$\$, ALL.

SEAFOOD

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

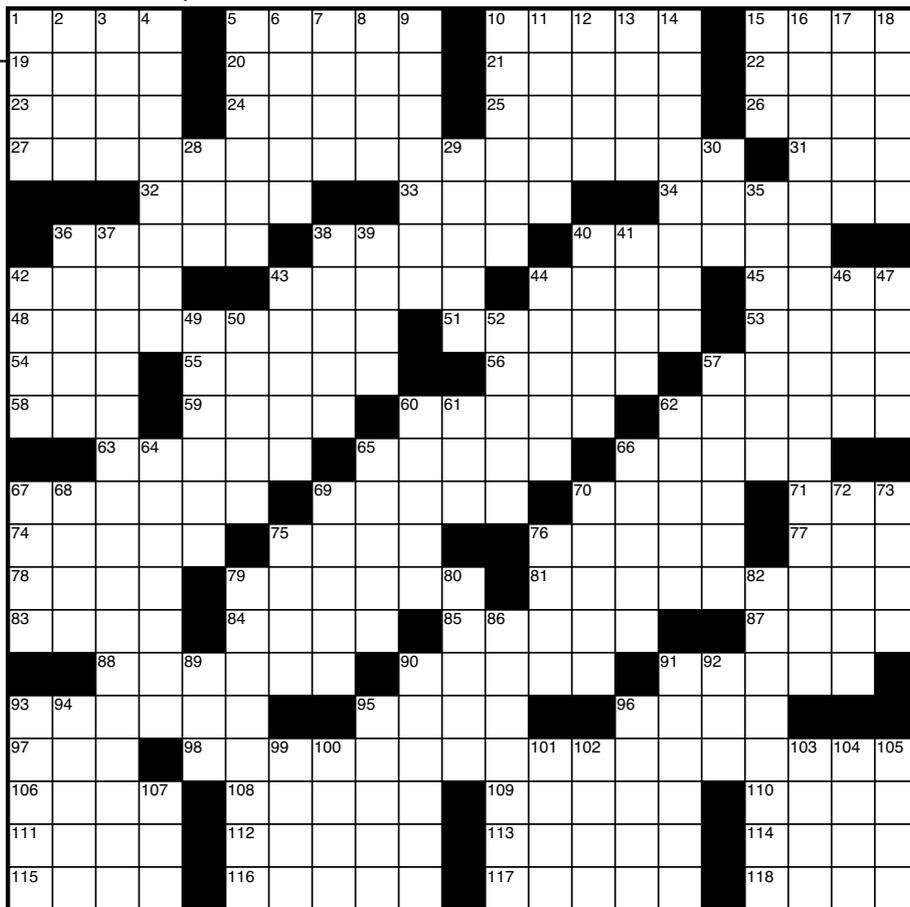
LuLu's Waterfront Grille 301 N. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach (285-0139). Perched on the banks of the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Valley, this casual restaurant is known for its local seafood dishes like steamed garlic clams and Chef Jeff's New England clam chowder. Its true claim to fame is its 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.

LONGEVITY BY JAMES BARRICK

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ACROSS

- 1. Sports venue
- 5. Influence, in a way
- 10. Revolutionary leader
- 15. Impertinent
- 19. Decorative molding
- 20. Drop a syllable
- 21. Licit
- 22. River in Russia
- 23. Conservative
- 24. — Major
- 25. Quickly
- 26. Second caliph
- 27. Start of a quip by Andy Rooney: 3 wds.
- 31. Part of Can.
- 32. Related
- 33. Looped cross
- 34. Bean type

- 36. Ambit
- 38. Nasal membranes
- 40. Boy wonder
- 42. Certain horse
- 43. Runner in a race
- 44. Rests
- 45. Minus
- 48. Part 2 of quip: 3 wds.
- 51. Provoke
- 53. Buttress
- 54. Bridle part
- 55. Where the Styx flows
- 56. Eskers
- 57. Clock sound
- 58. — -fi
- 59. Angers
- 60. Goes quickly
- 62. Invented
- 63. Furnishes

- 65. Part 3 of quip
- 66. Not the King's English
- 67. Settings
- 69. Tastelessly funny
- 70. Present!
- 71. Delivery co.
- 74. Name on a back pocket
- 75. Eructation
- 76. Abounds
- 77. — forte
- 78. Salem's state: abbr.
- 79. Relating to skin
- 81. Part 4 of quip: 2 wds.
- 83. Period
- 84. She, in Sicily
- 85. Moorehead the actress
- 87. Contended
- 88. Pub regular
- 90. Gracie or Woody

- 91. Bovine
- 93. College treasurer
- 95. Gallimaufry
- 96. Level
- 97. "Do — — say ..."
- 98. End of the quip: 5 wds.
- 106. Chums
- 108. Set of steps
- 109. Parts of feet
- 110. — dixit
- 111. Jason's vessel
- 112. Purloined
- 113. Deposit in wine casks
- 114. Monocle
- 115. Gypsy gentlemen
- 116. Exuviates
- 117. Sierra —
- 118. Latvian

DOWN

- 1. On-campus program: abbr.
- 2. Mad scientist's aide
- 3. Infamous ruler
- 4. Quoin
- 5. Statistical group
- 6. Antelope
- 7. Tinkle
- 8. Redact
- 9. Make new, in a way
- 10. Baked —
- 11. Profundity
- 12. Chinese gelatin
- 13. Ceremonial staff
- 14. Most streamlined
- 15. Broadway's Ziegfeld
- 16. Bakery item: 3 wds.
- 17. Pointless

- 18. Fete
- 28. Soak
- 29. — nous
- 30. Airtight container
- 35. SeaWorld denizen
- 36. Kind of boom
- 37. Certain span: 2 wds.
- 38. Begets
- 39. Part of BPOE
- 40. Printing measures
- 41. — apparent
- 42. Cookout fare
- 43. Methods
- 44. Leans to one side
- 46. Approximately
- 47. Raced
- 49. Complains
- 50. The whole nine —
- 52. Not right upstairs

- 57. Unrefined
- 60. Allegro, presto, etc.
- 61. Salesman
- 62. Vise
- 64. Inexplicable things
- 65. Buddhist principle
- 66. Beginnings
- 67. Circuit-board socket
- 68. Beak part
- 69. Like kale
- 70. Daughter of Zeus and Leda
- 72. More wan
- 73. Took to court
- 75. Kind of tower
- 76. Elasticity
- 79. Makes free of ice
- 80. A state: abbr.

- 82. Excessive force
- 86. Of the vocal apparatus
- 89. Beam
- 90. Outlanders
- 91. Figure of speech
- 92. Light meal
- 93. — the Elephant
- 94. Loansharking
- 95. Leered at
- 96. Mike or Cicely
- 99. Provo's state
- 100. Victory personified
- 101. — Krishna
- 102. As a consequence
- 103. Sword
- 104. Money — everything
- 105. Try
- 107. Distress call

PROMOTIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

JAXSCENE

A monthly highlight of Jacksonville Magazine's partner-related happenings.



NIP/TUCK

On January 29, some 75 people attended an open house for Dr. Michael J. Duffy, a reconstructive and plastic surgeon. Duffy offered mini skin consultations for guests during the three-hour gathering, as well as hors d'oeuvres and wine.

L-R 1. Patrick Duffy, Denisha Campbell & Chris Duffy; 2. Dr. Joe Barton & Susan Snodgrass; 3. Saha Bahri & Martha Zaatar; 4. Jessica & Brittany Fletcher



A FLORAL AFFAIR

Liz Stewart Floral Design feted some 130 friends with food and flowers at the grand opening of its Third Street studio on February 5. Catering by Liz (Grenamyler) served tasty eats and the evening's signature cocktail, the "pink tulip"—a champagne and pomegranate juice concoction. Also on hand were chocolate-covered strawberries, fresh Mayport shrimp and delicious raspberry tartlets from Classic Cakes.

1. A centerpiece arrangement; 2. Liz Stewart & Helena Stern; 3. Eric Marus & J.J. Hopely; 4. Susan Ryan & Barb Miller



If you would like to showcase your business event in Jax Scene, contact Kathleen Antol at 389-3622.

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, 1, 6, \$\$\$, ALL.

Whitey's Fish Camp 2032 County Rd. 220, Orange Park (269-4198). Open for more than 40 years, Whitey's is a local dining institution. Regulars visit for a chance to sit on the huge waterside deck, gawk at the menagerie of stuffed critters on display and partake in steamed snow crab legs, shrimp broil, fried grouper, sautéed crab cakes and all-you-can-eat catfish. L, D, O, FB, TO, \$\$, ALL.

SPANISH

13 Gypsies 887 Stockton St., Jacksonville (389-0330). Fresh, organic ingredients are the staple for the Spanish cuisine offered at 13 Gypsies. Open for lunch and dinner, the small eatery specializes in tapas including the convino tapa, Chef Howard's speciality. Vegetarian options available. L, D, SB, B/W, RS, TO, \$\$, ALL.

Sangria House 4320 Deerwood Lake Pkwy., Ste. 203, Southside (646-2977). Specialties include meatballs in almond sauce, garlic shrimp, Spanish egg and potato omelette, chicken with rice and paella Valenciana. Homemade sangria. Family casual. L, D, B/W, RA, RS, O, TO, 6, \$\$, ALL.

The Tasting Room, Contemporary Spanish Restaurant 25 Cuna St., St. Augustine (810-2400, www.tastetapas.com). Innovation and seasonal variety are the hallmarks of this chef-owned bistro, serving grilled hanger steak, baby lamb chops, white gazpacho and seafood paella. Tapas menu. Courtyard dining and a private room for intimate gatherings. D, B/W, RA, RS, O, 1, 6, \$\$\$, ALL.

STEAKHOUSE

The Capital Grille St. Johns Town Center (997-9233; www.thecapitalgrille.com). Upscale steakhouse dressed in crisp linens and serving Kona crusted dry aged sirloin with caramelized shallot butter, porcini rubbed Delmonico with eight-year aged balsamic. Private dining room and chef's table available. L, D, FB, ¥, O, RA, BR, VP, TO, 6, \$\$\$\$, ALL.

Espeto Brazilian Steakhouse 4000 St. Johns Ave., Avondale (388-4884; espetosteakhouse.com). Fourteen different cuts of meat are fire-grilled and carved tableside in the traditional churrasco style. Large salad bar and housemade desserts. Open 5-9 PM Sunday and Tuesday to Thursday; 5-10 PM Friday and Saturday and closed on Monday. Fixed price. Upscale. D, FB, ¥, RA, O, BR, 1, 6, \$\$\$\$, ALL.

Morton's, The Steakhouse 1510 Riverplace Blvd., Southbank (399-3933). Serving broiled sea scallops wrapped in bacon, apricot chutney, jumbo lump crab cake, USDA prime aged beef, live Maine lobster and Morton's legendary hot chocolate cake. Private board room dining available and an extensive wine list. D, FB, ¥, RA, RS, BR, VP, TO, 6, \$\$\$, AX, M, V.

Ruth's Chris Steak House 1201 Riverplace Blvd., Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront, Southbank (396-6200); 814 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach (285-0014). Steak (be it T-bone, ribeye,

NY strip or filet mignon) is obviously their specialty, but entrées also include stuffed chicken breast, lamb chops and lobster. Sides are pretty remarkable themselves (hello, eight kinds of potatoes!). Upscale/casual club seating. D, FB, ¥, RA, RS, VP, &, \$\$\$\$, ALL.

Tento Churrascaria 528 First St. N., Jacksonville Beach (246-1580). Brazilian-style barbecue is carved tableside at Tento, one of the Beaches' more unusual dining treats. Assorted meats are grilled on large skewers and presented at the table with sauces and sides. Fixed price menu. D, FB, ¥, RS, BR, &, \$\$\$\$, ALL.

Tree Steakhouse 11362-1 San Jose Blvd., Mandarin (262-0006). Serving steaks cut tableside, fish, chicken, lamb, prime rib. Salad bar and extensive wine list. D, FB, ¥, RA, RS, TO, &, \$\$\$\$, ALL.

THAI

Galangal 145 Hilden Rd., Ponte Vedra (827-1150; www.galangalcuisine.com). The menu at this upscale gem is laced with Thai faves like lemon-grass-crusted Chilean sea bass with green curry reduction and chili and lemongrass filet mignon with lump-crab fried rice. Large banquet room. Sushi available, too. D, FB, ¥, RA, BR, TO, &, \$\$\$, ALL.

Lemongrass Restaurant 9846 Old Baymeadows Rd., Southside (645-9911). Customer favorites include prig pow, panang curry, crispy duck and ginger-infused salad with wonton noodles. The restaurant's sleek design in shades of soothing green is comforting—that is, unless, you order your meal “Thai hot,” in which case there's no solace. Casual. L, D, B/W, RA, RS, O, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.

Thai Bistro San Marco 1974 San Marco Blvd., San Marco (338-0269). An upscale Thai restaurant located in the heart of historic San Marco. Serving fresh spring rolls, lobster salad and beef holy basil supreme. Private dining available. L, D.

Thai Garden Restaurant 10 Blanding Blvd., Ste. A, Orange Park (272-8434). Traditional Thai whole snapper, satay with chicken or pork, red or green curry and Thai garden curry. Casual. L, D, B/W, RA, TO, &, \$\$, ALL.

Thai Room 1286 S. 3rd St., Jacksonville Beach (249-8444). Casual ambiance featuring authentic cuisine including crispy duck, noodles of the drunk and chicken satay. D, B/W, RS, \$\$, ALL. *J

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A	R	G	O		T	A	K	E	N		A	R	G	O	L		L	E	N	S												
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