

PORTLAND'S WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO MAGAZINE • NOVEMBER 2006

# PDX magazine



## **Fresh Off the Line:** Best PDX Seafood

**Local DJ's Get Your Body Movin'**

**Cozy Up to Warm Cocktails & Bar Fireplaces**

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Fresh catches at Jake's

Boasting a varied and ever-changing menu inspired by the culinary traditions of the Mediterranean, Southpark's true claim to fame is their award-winning 130-bottle wine list. They also put special emphasis on sustainable seafood practices, meaning that even the most fervent of Portland tree-huggers can feel good about their dining choice.

Located downtown in the heart of the city's cultural district, the restaurant offers a stylish, yet relaxed atmosphere. Be sure to peruse the chalkboards on the walls displaying the most recent seasonal offerings, or kick back in the inviting and colorful wine bar. Try the mouthwatering and tender Hebi (seasonal Hawaiian Spearfish, served with fried eggplant, polenta cakes, red pepper coulis and spinach salad tossed with a lemon vinaigrette), and don't be afraid to ask the expert wait staff to complete your meal with the perfect wine. For dessert, the Valhrona Bittersweet Chocolate Crostata (served with coconut sorbet) will awaken your tastebuds and make you shout "Timmy!" Oh wait, wrong South Park.

Considered one of the best seafood restaurants in the nation, Jake's Famous Crawfish (401 SW 12th Ave, 226-1419, mccormick-and-schmicks.com) has been a long-standing downtown Portland landmark since 1892.

As the name would indicate, Jake's was originally founded to showcase the region's tasty crustaceans, but now features a wide assortment of fresh fish and seafood flown in daily.

The main restaurant gives off a warm, old school vibe, with brass accents and mahogany tables throughout. Optional green velvet drapeloaked "snugs" (private booths for four to six) provide an intimate dining experience perfect for either a romantic rendezvous or to conduct a business transaction—though it's probably best not to combine the two.

Jake's is a member of the esteemed

## Classic Catches

by Jeremy Lloyd

It's no secret that the city of Portland loves its seafood. Whether it's oysters on the half shell, sea scallops or fresh caught Chinook salmon, we just can't stop shoving it into our port holes. Portlanders also love to dine out in high style, so it's no coincidence that an abundance of top notch seafood restaurants call the Rose City home. For the quintessential ocean-faring experience, visit one of these big fish.

If you're looking for fresh Northwest seafood and produce, unique imported specialty foods, delicious desserts and the perfect glass of wine to accompany every course, *Southpark Seafood Grill and Wine Bar* (901 SW Salmon St, 326-1300, southpark.citysearch.com) is the spot.

family of restaurants that also includes The Original McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant (235 SW 1st Ave, 224-7522, mccormickandschmicks.com) and McCormick & Schmick's Harborside at the Marina (2309 SW Montgomery St, 220-2865).

The Harborside location stands out for its soaring, three-tiered restaurant interior that looks out over the waterfront and is home to the Full Sail Micro Brewery, which has over 30 beers on tap for your imbibing pleasure.

Located in the historic Henry Failing building downtown, the Original M&S has a traditional feel and is centered around a turn-of-the-century bar, which has long been a favorite spot for Portlanders to unwind and eradicate a few unneeded brain cells with a hand-shaken cocktail, premium beer or glass of wine. With a Cheers-like atmosphere where everybody knows your name, this is where locals in the know go. Try the succulent Sea Scallops (pan seared with curry, chive and chili oil and served over a potato cake) and for dessert, you can't go wrong with the Chocolate Truffle Bread Pudding (served with an Irish whiskey glaze).

All three establishments take great pride in their unique approach to the menu, which is printed twice daily and features a "Fresh List" that is modified as new deliveries arrive throughout the day.

And don't forget to partake in the notorious McCormick and Schmick's happy hour (times and menu items vary by location) and save much needed cash to satiate your ever-growing booze habit.

A lot has changed in Portland over the last century, but Dan & Louis' Oyster Bar (208 SW Ankeny St, 227-5906, danandlouis.com) has managed to capture a piece of the city's past. Nearly every inch of wall space in this old-style eatery is covered with vintage photos, plates and marine memorabilia, slowly collected over four generations of family ownership.

But the real draw is, of course, the oysters. And these guys know oysters like Bubba knows shrimp. Oysters Rockefeller, oyster cocktail, oysters on the half shell, oyster shooters, deep fried oysters, pan fried oysters, oyster sandwich...well, you get the idea. Dan and Louis' also offers other traditional seafood fare, but longtime regulars swear by the basics like their clam chowder and famous oyster stew.

Spectacular views of the Columbia River and Mt. Hood serve as the backdrop for Salty's Seafood Grill (3839 NE Marine Dr, 288-4444, saltys.com), where fine dining meets a vibrant, unique décor and lively atmosphere.

On select nights, Salty's bar-café plays host to live jazz and piano performances

from top local musicians like drummer Mel Brown – who recorded and toured with The Supremes, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder – while wraparound decks overlooking the river offer a chance to soak up those last few rays of fall sunshine.

Start your meal off right with their delicious coconut-flaked prawns and for the main course sink your fork into the grilled house-smoked wild salmon (served over garlic mashed potatoes and wilted spinach with a bacon vinaigrette). Don't miss the saltwater tanks in the lobby stocked with live Dungeness crabs and Maine lobsters, and decide which unlucky creature will soon be taking their final swim. Also check out their Sunday Brunch, which includes an extensive fresh seafood spread. It may very well just be the best around.

Perhaps the most stunning view in town is offered at Chart House (15700 SW Terwilliger Blvd, 246-6963, chart-house.com). Perched atop the Southwest hills and overlooking the Willamette River and downtown, a tiered dining room ensures that every guest will enjoy the sunset or city lights. Chart House serves savory dishes like Snapper Hemingway, Shrimp Fresca and slow roasted Prime Rib, in addition to a wide assortment of fine wines, whiskeys and desserts, and is a great spot to celebrate special occasions in high style. ▶

