

restaurants



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seafood

This is the third in a series of 10 articles picking the top 100 restaurants on Long Island in 10 different, popular categories: gastropubs, barbecue, seafood, steak, Latin, sushi, New American, cheap eats, Italian and Asian. An 11th feature will cover 10 restaurant runners-up.

The restaurants were selected by

Newsday's food critics **Peter M. Gianotti** and **Joan Reminick** and food reporter **Erica Marcus**.

These winners made the cut based primarily on the quality of their food. In the cheap eats category, cost was a key factor. To represent what's available on as much of Long Island as possible, location also was taken into account.

Each year, you expect Long Island to overflow with outstanding seafood restaurants. But that doesn't happen. You put up with more limp fried calamari and overcooked farmed fish than anyone should before finding perfect Peconic Bay scallops and pristine striped bass, incomparable Montauk tuna and briny-sweet local oysters.

These 10 restaurants, listed alphabetically, always deliver the big catch.

ARTIE'S SOUTH SHORE FISH & GRILL
4257 Austin Blvd., Island Park
516-889-0692

Both a fish store and a fish house, this casual spot is presided over by owner Artie Hoerning, who catches some of the seafood he sells. Freshness is paramount, and if the dinnerware is plastic, who cares? Not you, if you're sitting down to a generous lobster roll, fine fried clams, meaty grilled swordfish steak or deep-fried whole fluke. Actually, whatever Hoerning has just reeled in. No credit cards. \$\$

BIGELOW'S
79 N. Long Beach Rd., Rockville Centre
516-678-3878; bigelows-rvc.com

This landmark clam shack has been serving up seafood since 1939 along a distinctly unmaritime stretch of Sunrise Highway. The kitchen has a breeding station, a grill and a couple of fryolators; the dining room, a curved counter with 30 stools. The main attraction here is fried seafood



Fresh, pan-seared tilefish with lemon beurre blanc, vegetables and potatoes is on the menu at Fishbar in Montauk.



Kyma in Roslyn serves grilled octopus and other Greek and Mediterranean fare.

— whiting, shrimp, calamari, smelts, oysters, scallops — but the undisputed stars of the show are the fried Ipswich clams, that is, soft-shell clams with the bellies still attached. Cash only. \$\$

BOSTWICK'S CHOWDER HOUSE
277 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
631-324-1111;
bostwickschowderhouse.com

At this uber-casual Hamptons fish house, you might spot a movie or TV star at an outdoor table, communing with a bowl of rich New England clam chowder. Or slurping littleneck clams. Bostwick's also serves a dandy lobster roll, as well as fine fish tacos, available with grilled or blackened fish. Even lobster. Other choices: fried whole clam bellies, an oyster po'boy and broiled local flounder. Conclude with a slice of homey Key lime pie. \$\$

FISHBAR
467 E. Lake Dr., Montauk
631-668-6600; freshlocalfish.com

Chef Jennifer Meadows prepares splashy seafood from this sunny waterside perch — the ideal fare in a summer resort town. Seasonal favorites include soft-shell crab paired with grilled watermelon; pan-seared tilefish with grilled vegetables, fried squash blossoms and lemon beurre blanc; fish tacos; a lobster roll; and "The Fishbar" for two, with lobsters, clams, shrimp, mussels, red bliss potatoes, corn, drawn butter, lemon, satisfaction. \$\$\$-\$\$\$

H2O SEAFOOD & SUSHI
215 W. Main St., Smithtown
631-361-6464; h2oseafoodgrill.com

Refreshed and renamed, H2O Seafood & Sushi also boasts new chef

AVERAGE MEAL PRICE PER PERSON \$=\$15 \$\$=\$30 \$\$\$=\$60 \$\$\$\$=\$100



ALESSANDRO VECCHI

Fried oysters on the half shell with remoulade sauce at H2O Seafood & Sushi in Smithtown.

Wayne Cafariella. The restaurant's primary dining room has a white-wall, marine-accent New England look. And the chowder still is excellent. Also, nibble on fried oysters, shellfish cocktails or the sushi bar's spicy tuna crispy rice sliders before savoring the lobster bake, the millennium lobster and, for the landlocked, fried chicken and watermelon. \$\$\$

THE JOLLY FISHERMAN & STEAK HOUSE

25 Main St., Roslyn
516-621-0055;
jollyfishermanrestaurant.com

The Jolly Fisherman & Steak House has been serving since Alec Guinness detonated "The Bridge on the River Kwai." It has updated and streamlined just enough since then. Seasonal specials such as stone crab claws, Nantucket Bay scallops and shad roe ensure regulars. Reliable selections take in shellfish cocktails, Maryland crabcakes, steamed lobster, swordfish with mustard sauce and Dover sole meunière, all of which come before the respectable steaks. \$\$-\$\$\$\$

KYMA

1446 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn
516-621-3700; kyma-roslyn.com

Greek and Mediterranean seafood shine at Kyma, sometimes on ice. The handsome restaurant excels with grilled octopus, shrimp saganaki, grilled tiger shrimp, fish soup with grouper and especially whole, charcoal-grilled fish such as royal dorado, black sea bass, red snapper and branzino. There's first-rate moussaka, too, plus traditional Greek spreads, saganaki and fried zucchini and eggplant chips. Greek yogurt, baklava, and walnut cake top the sweets. \$\$-\$\$\$\$

LIMANI

1043 Northern Blvd., Roslyn
516-869-8989; limaniny.com

Opulent and extravagant, Limani is a grand setting for very fresh seafood and Greek specialties. Whole, charcoal-grilled fish for two include fagri, similar to pink snapper; red snapper; and black sea bass. They're rivaled by grilled arctic char, Dover sole and halibut. The raw bar is very good, as are the grilled calamari and seppie. The carnivorous should be satisfied with lamb chops and porterhouse steak. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

NOAH'S

136 Front St., Greenport
631-477-6720;
chefnoahschwartz.com

Modern and traditional, sharp and subtle, chef Noah Schwartz's North Fork seafooder has a sense of place and style. The decor combines industrial and artful. Schwartz's highlights include a superior Long Island clam chowder, Shinnecock sea scallop ceviche, grilled sardines with piquillo peppers, Tasmanian red crab tacos, a local seafood stew inspired by bouillabaisse, poached Atlantic halibut with coconut milk and, on another note, Crescent Farms pulled duck. \$\$-\$\$\$\$

THE PLAZA CAFÉ

61 Hill St., Southampton
631-283-9323; plazacafe.us

Chef-owner Douglas Gulija's bright, warm, creative restaurant has turned out immediate classics such as his lobster-and-shrimp shepherd's pie and grilled Montauk swordfish "chop." Equally memorable are soy-acacia honey-marinated black cod, local fluke sashimi with lemon confit, sauteed halibut with a Peruvian potato puree, seared squid with piquillo peppers and a bracing lobster-and-corn chowder. Duck breast and confit combo also star. Delightful desserts. \$\$\$



JOHNNY SIMON

Limani in Roslyn serves whole grilled fagri, a snapper, open and deboned with lemon and capers.

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