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MAGAZINE

The best outdoor spots to sit back with tasty eats & cool drinks

SUMMER HANGOUTS



JULY 2016

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dining guide

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openings

A monthly look at some of what's new and exciting on the Connecticut dining scene

The Pine Leaf Cafe, New Milford Opened in May by chef/owner and three-time James Beard nominee Joel Viehland, this temporary pop-up restaurant will serve simple, light breakfasts and fresh, seasonal lunch fare with a focus on local and organic ingredients. Viehland is well known to Connecticut foodies as the former chef at Community Table. Try it when you can, though, as the eatery will close this winter. [thepineleafct.com](#)

Tavern 489, Stamford The Most Interesting Man in the World from the Dos Equis commercials might be interested in dining at this new bar and tavern specializing in French-inspired global cuisine and, according to promo material, taking "its cues from the warmth of a grand stone fireplace in a tavern-esque mountain lodge, channeling prolific adventurers Ernest Hemingway and Robert Frost." 203-355-0360, [tavern489.com](#)

The Restaurant at Spicer Mansion, Mystic This jacket-and-collar-required restaurant at the new ultra-luxury Mystic hotel will feature a six-course tasting menu that changes nightly and features artisanal meats and fresh seafood. There's a catch, however — unless you're a guest at this hotel, it is invitation-only. 855-679-2468, [spicermansion.com](#)

Wright's Steakhouse, Centerbrook (Essex) Jonathan Rapp, owner of the River Tavern, Otto Pizza and the culinary force behind the Dinners at the Farm dining series, has opened this new take on a traditional steakhouse. The menu is eclectic and features local ingredients where possible. 860-767-2440, [wrightssteak.com](#)

Zaragoza, New Milford Craft beer and cocktails, as well as intriguing tapas are the name of the game at this sleek downtown restaurant. Pair creative cocktails like the IPA Margarita (tequila, Luxardo Triplum, fresh lemon, lime and orange juice, topped with IPA foam) with tapas like Cubano sliders and spicy watermelon calamari (calamari served with fresh watermelon). 860-350-0701, [zaragozarestaurant.com](#)

Know of a new Connecticut restaurant? Email Erik Ofgang at eofgang@connecticutmag.com.

CONNECTICUT Magazine's restaurant listings are presented as a service to our readers. Information on specialties, prices, etc., was supplied by the restaurateurs. Space limitations in this guide prevent us from describing every restaurant in the state; omission is not intended to reflect upon the quality of an establishment. The listings include restaurants we know and love, and those recommended to us by our readers. Average entrée prices are based on dinner entrées: \$ — inexpensive (under \$15); \$\$ — moderate (\$15-\$25); \$\$\$ — expensive (over \$25). This guide is updated regularly, but it is suggested that prices and hours be verified by phone. B (Breakfast); L (Lunch); D (Dinner); LS (Late Supper); SB (Sunday Brunch); E (Live Entertainment); WA (Wheelchair Access); EP = 2016 Experts' Pick award winner; RC = 2016 Readers' Choice winner.

Fairfield County

Basso Cafe • Mediterranean Casual fine dining establishment offering Mediterranean Latin fusion cuisine in a cozy and chic atmosphere. Bar offers a full wine, beer and craft cocktail list. • 124 New Canaan Ave., Norwalk, 203-354-6566 [www.bassobistrocafe.com](#), Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sat.), D, \$\$\$

Butcher's Best Country Market • Deli • RC Meats are hand-selected, trimmed and cooked, prepared take-home or in your favorite sandwich to go. Traditional and special salads are also available. • 125 S. Main St., Newtown, 203-364-0013 [butchersbestmarket.com](#), Closed Sun. L, \$

Cesco's Trattoria • Italian Chef Aldo Chiamulera's new restaurant is a sophisticated riff on an Old World country villa. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 25 Old Kings Hwy., Darien, 203-202-9985 [cescostrattoria.com](#), Open daily. L D, \$\$\$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • Pizza While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, just about any pie here is worth the wait. • 238 Commerce Drive, Fairfield, 203-333-7373; 59 Federal Road, Danbury, 203-790-7373 [pepespizzeria.com](#), Open daily. L D, \$, WA

Homestead Inn — Thomas Henkelmann • French • EP Upscale French restaurant features impeccable service, comfortable surroundings, an extensive wine list and creative French food. • 420 Field Point Road, Greenwich, 203-869-7500 [homesteadinn.com/thomas-henkelmann](#), Closed Sun.-Mon. L (Tues.-Fri.), D, \$\$\$

Ichiro • Sushi • EP Ichiro offers a combination of Asian fusion, sushi and hibachi entrees. Enjoy the full-service bar and the shows put on by the hibachi chef. • 69 Newtown Road, Danbury, 203-792-8881 [ichirodanbury.com](#), Open daily. D, LS (Fri.-Sat.), \$\$

Joseph's Steakhouse • American • EP Known for a New York-style steakhouse experience with gems such as prime

dry-aged beef. • 360 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, 203-337-9944 [josephssteakhouse.com](#), Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$\$\$, WA

The Local Kitchen and Bar • American Craft beer is the name of the game here with more than 30 lines including rare local, national and international gems. There is also a full menu of classic American cuisine. • 68 Washington St., Norwalk, 203-957-3352 ([sonolocal.com](#)); 85 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, 203-955-1919 [fairfieldlocal.com](#), Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

Pho Vietnam • Vietnamese A family-owned restaurant serving authentic Vietnamese food with fresh produce, choice meats and seafood. • 56 Padanaram Road, Danbury, 203-743-6049 [rivebistro.com](#), Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

Positano Ristorante • Italian This restaurant has been owned and operated by the Scarpati family for more than 15 years. Owner and chef Giuseppe Scarpati was born on the island of Positano, Italy, and his cuisine focuses on all-natural cooking, with fresh fishes, meats, fruits, vegetables, and aromatic herbs. • 27 Powers Court, Westport, 203-454-4922 [positanosrestaurantwestport.com](#), Closed Mon.-Tues. L D SB, \$\$, E

Redding Roadhouse • American This cozy, classic-style pub features seafood and meat classics as well as an assortment of artisan cheeses, a good beer list and specialty cocktails. • 406 Redding Road, Redding, 203-938-3388 [thereddingroadhouse.com](#), Open daily. L D SB, \$\$, E, WA

Roberto's • Italian • RC Excellent Italian food with attentive service, plus catering and a full-service banquet facility. • 505 Main St., Monroe, 203-268-5723 [robertosmonroe.com](#), Open daily. L (Sun.), D, \$\$

Sal e Pepe Contemporary Italian Bistro • Northern Italian • RC Offers superb cuisine with a contemporary flair, from fresh pastas and sauces to unique specials and classics with a modern twist. • 97 South Main St., Newtown, 203-426-0805 [salepeperrestaurant.com](#), Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

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