

Garvin Family Restaurant Recommendations

THAI / JAPANESE:

Spice Club, Niantic

860-451-8121

<http://thespiceclubct.com/>

Offers Thai, Japanese and Asian fusion cuisine. Some of our favorite dishes include: Red Curry, Spice Club Sampler, Miso Soup, Boat Noodles, Drunken Noodles and numerous specialty sushi rolls. This is a great restaurant to go with friends, date night and even the family. The service is great and everything is made to order.

Osaka, Niantic

<http://www.osakact.com/>

860-691-2599

Just opening, this restaurant has become a quick favorite. They define their food as modern Asian. From their delicious sushi menu to their hibachi, you're sure to have a great time with great food!

TEX MEX / MEXICAN:

Cuckoos Nest, Old Saybrook

<http://www.cuckoosnest.biz/>

(860) 399-9060

The Cuckoos Nest has become a landmark with locals and visitors. Since opening their doors 36 years ago, the "the Nest" has become a favorite for families and a wide variety of people. From their funky décor, live music, house made chips and salsa; the Cuckoos Nest is definitely a favorite of ours. Some of our favorite dishes include: Burrito Grande, Fajitas, Guacamole, Monterrey Salad, Taco Salad, Dinner Combos, Margaritas and Sangria.

LOCAL, ORGANIC, SEASONAL:

River Tavern, Chester

(860) 526-9417

<http://www.rivertavernrestaurant.com/>

The River Tavern, located in beautiful downtown Chester, features sustainable, seasonable and organic ingredients. Their menu is constantly changing with the inventive farm fresh cuisine. This restaurant is great for a night out with friends and family or date night.

CAJUN/AMERICAN:

New Orleans Restaurant, Westbrook

(860) 399-7872

<http://www.creativecooking.cc>

Adventurous entrees featuring authentic New Orleans dishes.

ITALIAN / PIZZA:

Alfrono's, Old Saybrook

(860) 399-4166

<http://www.alforno.net/>

If you're craving brick oven pizza and homemade hearty pasta dishes, this is your place. Offering a wide variety of Italian cuisine using only the freshest ingredients has only helped this small establishment become one of the top 1,000 Italian restaurants in the country. Some of our favorite dishes include: Pizza Napolitano Vera, Tagliatelle Bolognese and Penne Toscano.

Teddy's Pizza Palace, Old Lyme

(860) 434-1517

In addition to Pizza this place has calzones, grinders, seafood and Greek specialties. If half the family needs Gyro's and the other half just needs pizza this a good place to meet everybody's needs.

TAKE OUT:

AC Peterson Hallmark Drive In, Old Lyme

(860) 434-1998

This is history! If for some reason this is your first time to Hawks Nest Beach than go to no other restaurant than this one to experience a summer in Old Lyme. The homemade Ice cream, burgers, lobster rolls and fried clams are what summer in Old Lyme tastes like.

Cherrystones Take Out, Old Lyme

(860) 434-5686

A new establishment that opened up at the end of last summer, was a sure hit. Serving hot dogs, hamburgers, lobster rolls, crab cakes, fried seafood and ice cream, this a great place to take out or eat there at outside tables.

FAMILY FRIENDLY:

The Grille, Old Lyme

(860) 434-1414

The Grille offers American (traditional), seafood and Italian food. The Grille is a great place to grab an appetizer and a pint or to have a sit down meal with the family.

Hideaway Restaurant and Pub, Old Lyme

(860) 434-3335

The Hideaway is a great place to go for just about anything. They offer a wide range of food from traditional American to Mexican to pub food. This is a great place to go when you're just not sure what you want to eat.

Griswold Inn- Essex

(860) 767-1776

<http://www.griswoldinn.com/>

Born of Independence, these are the beginnings of The Griswold Inn, a destination for seafarers and land travelers alike for more than 234 years. Today the "Gris" remains the center of a thriving community, offering a unique experience and a comfortable connection to the past. Visit their taproom where they have many local beers on tap as well as music every night. Be sure to go on Monday nights when they have Sea Shanty night in their Tap Room. It is a must! They've also added a new wine bar with delicious tapas menu. On Wednesday night it is half price wine for ladies. I would suggest making a reservation since the wine bar fills up quickly. To bring you back in time, each staff member at the Griswold Inn, wears 1800's era clothing and if you're lucky enough the quartet might come up and sing to you if you are eating in the main dining room!

This was the place that Perry Garvin Jr. would take his small children for a special night on the town

FINE DINING

Bee & Thistle Inn, Old Lyme

(860) 434-1667

<http://beeandthistleinn.com/>

The Bee & Thistle Inn is a landmark in Old Lyme providing beautiful views of their gardens and the Lieutenant River. In the spring, summer and early fall people love to enjoy their afternoon tea (th-sat) on their veranda and tables located throughout the property. The Chestnut Grille serves up delicious always changing comfort food with a twist. This is a wonderful place not only to have dinner and cocktails, but also to get a spa treatment as well as staying over night in one of their luxurious suites.

Gabrielle's, Centerbrook

(860) 767-2440

<http://gabrielles.net/>

A fusion of history and a contemporary bistro atmosphere, Gabrielle's is a restaurant with commitment to fresh, simple and organic food. The restaurant is also kid friendly.

Old Lyme Inn, Old Lyme

(860) 434-2600

<http://oldlymeinn.com/>

Another landmark in Old Lyme is the newly reconstructed Old Lyme Inn. Located near the Bee & Thistle, the Old Lyme Inn has brought new life to the area. Recently opening is the Side Door Jazz club, a spa and restaurant. The lunch and dinner menu, as well as the wine and cocktail list, change seasonally and employ locally grown and deliciously fresh produce, meat, and seafood, as well as farm-roasted coffee and homemade ice cream.

BREAKFAST:

The Shack, East Lyme

(860) 739-8898

<http://www.shackrestaurants.com/>

The Shack is a local family owned and operated company that has been serving southeastern Connecticut residents and visitors since 1989. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, the menu offers both all-American favorites and classic comfort foods.

Morning Glory Café, Old Lyme

860.434.0480

<http://www.morningglorycafeoldlyme.com/>

Nestled along the Lieutenant River Morning Glory Cafe offers beautiful scenic views of the ever-changing season along this quiet waterway. There is both indoor and outdoor dining available. Offering traditional American and Lao food, this family will bring something new to their menu ... and always with the theme of blending two wonderful cuisines and sometimes giving favorite dishes an international twist. A definite must!

JAMMS, Old Saybrook

860-510-0839

<http://www.jamssos.com/>

An excellent breakfast and lunch spot. Food is fresh and prepared with obvious pride and care of the owner/operators. The menu is very family friendly and also caters to the eclectic. Awesome specials weekly and a super friendly staff/atmosphere make this spot well worth the visit.

SEAFOOD:

Bill's Seafood, Westbrook

(860) 399-7224

<http://www.billsseafood.com/>

Bill's Seafood is familiar territory to boaters who dock their boats in some of the finest marinas on the East Coast in Westbrook Connecticut. Outside picnic tables on the edge of the Patchogue River, and a center bar/dining room with a nautical kind atmosphere is the best on going party on the East Coast. When thinking of scrod, swordfish, tuna, big sweet lobsters, cherrystone clams and fried clams or our popular specials, Bill's Seafood is the place to bring your family and relax. As the seasons change so do they. You will always find Bill's Seafood packed with happy customers.

Liv's Oyster Bar, Old Saybrook

(860) 395-5577

<http://livsoysterbar.com/>

Dining at Liv's, whether in the main room, at the bar, or on the patio, is an experience to be savored with friends and family long after summer on the shoreline has past. Liv's creates simple, focused dishes with an emphasis on local ingredients, and the stunning seafood that the area provides. The menu at Liv's changes with the seasons, bringing guests a true taste of the pristine environment.

Flanders Fish Market, East Lyme

(860) 739-8866

<http://flandersfish.com/>

Flanders fish market is home to a 150-seat restaurant whose kitchen is presided over by award-winning chefs. Their fish and chips, ever so popular, was featured on the Food Network's "Best of Fingerlickin' Favorites". Each day's menu showcases innovative and delicious seafood dishes. Don't want to have dinner in the dining room? No problem. Get fresh seafood to go in their market.

Lenny's On The Beach, Old Lyme

<http://www.lennysonthebeach.com/>

A lively waterfront joint dishing out pub grub & seafood favorites in an easygoing beach environment. It is within walking distance to Hawk's Nest Beach.

Otter Cove, Old Saybrook

(860) 388-4836

<http://www.ottercoverestaurant.com/>

Otter Cove is known for its seafood and raw bar. They also offer vegetarian and meat options. This restaurant usually books up on the weekends so reservations are recommended. This restaurant is also kid friendly offering a great kids menu. Some of our favorite dishes include: oysters (raw), PEI Mussels, Otter Cove Stew, Malibu Chicken, Filet and Grilled Halibut.