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Newport Restaurant Week Introduces New Options and Price Points

The event's advisory board has created options to give both restaurateurs and diners flexibility within their dining experience.

Newport (R.I.) August 23, 2018 – For the first time since its inception in 2006, Newport Restaurant Week, which takes place again this fall (November 2-11, 2018), will see a price increase and introduce a new structure for the event's lunch offerings. Restaurateurs may also elect to offer an upgraded menu for three-course dinners.

Restaurants participating in lunch service during Newport Restaurant Week will be offering two-courses for \$20. For dinner, three-course menus will be offered at the existing \$35 price point, as it has been since 2014, while some restaurants will offer a three-course "premier menu" with cocktail, beer or wine pairings or "flights."

"In addition to talking with our restaurant industry partners throughout the year, we created a Newport Restaurant Week advisory board in 2013 comprised of restaurant owners and managers throughout our destination to learn firsthand what's working and what needs to be re-evaluated," said Brittany Lauro, who manages Newport Restaurant Week for Discover Newport. "One thing we heard across the board was that the existing lunch price point simply wasn't congruent with today's food and operational costs. We also learned that many lunch patrons were too full after two courses to partake in the dessert course, resulting in guests either taking dessert to-go or foregoing the course altogether."

Charlie Holder, Operations Manager at both Midtown Oyster Bar and Surf Club restaurants in Newport regularly participates in the bi-annual event. "We're as committed to the quality and

integrity of our menus as we are to our customers,” says Holder. “We’ve always enjoyed being a part of Newport Restaurant Week as it’s an opportunity to welcome new customers, re-connect with regulars and introduce new menu items. The fact is, food and labor costs have increased over the years and we need to offer a Restaurant Week menu in line with those expenses to continue to put out the best possible product. We’re devoted to serving dishes that we are proud of and that also excites our guests.”

For many restaurateurs, the idea of offering a premier menu for a three-course dinner during Restaurant Week has a unique appeal. “We at Fluke Newport are excited to present guests with expanded offerings from Chef Eddie Montalvo’s brand-new menu during this year’s Restaurant Week that will reflect a great value at both price points,” says Geremie Callaghan, co-owner the Bowen’s Wharf restaurant. Premier menus will be \$50 per person for the three-course meals.

The Newport Restaurant Week Advisory Board also selected the dates for the 2019 and 2020 events:

April 5-14, 2019

November 1-10, 2019

March 20-29, 2020

October 30-November 8, 2020

Participating restaurants will be added to DiscoverNewportRestaurantWeek.org immediately after signing up and their menus added within 24 hours of receipt. Discover Newport encourages all participating restaurants to submit their menus as early as possible to give diners a comprehensive scope of all the seasonal and sensational dishes being offered and allow them to plan accordingly.

ABOUT NEWPORT RESTAURANT WEEK

Newport Restaurant Week was established in 2006 as an annual event to encourage both residents and visitors to Newport and Bristol counties to experience the vast culinary talent in our destination at an affordable price. The event’s mission is to stimulate local business not only at restaurants but at retail and lodging partners as well. In 2008, Newport Restaurant Week expanded to a bi-annual event; one taking place in early spring and the other in late fall. Restaurateurs often create menus that showcase seasonal ingredients and promote local artisan food and wine purveyors. Many offer vegetarian and gluten-free alternatives to patrons with food allergies or special dietary requirements.

ABOUT DISCOVER NEWPORT

Discover Newport is the official destination management organization (DMO) dedicated to promoting the City of Newport and the eight surrounding coastal townships in Newport and Bristol counties, Rhode Island. These include Barrington, Bristol, Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Warren. As a non-profit organization, Discover Newport partners with stakeholders throughout our tourism and hospitality industry

to market the region as a premier destination for business and leisure travel. Learn more at DiscoverNewport.org.

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