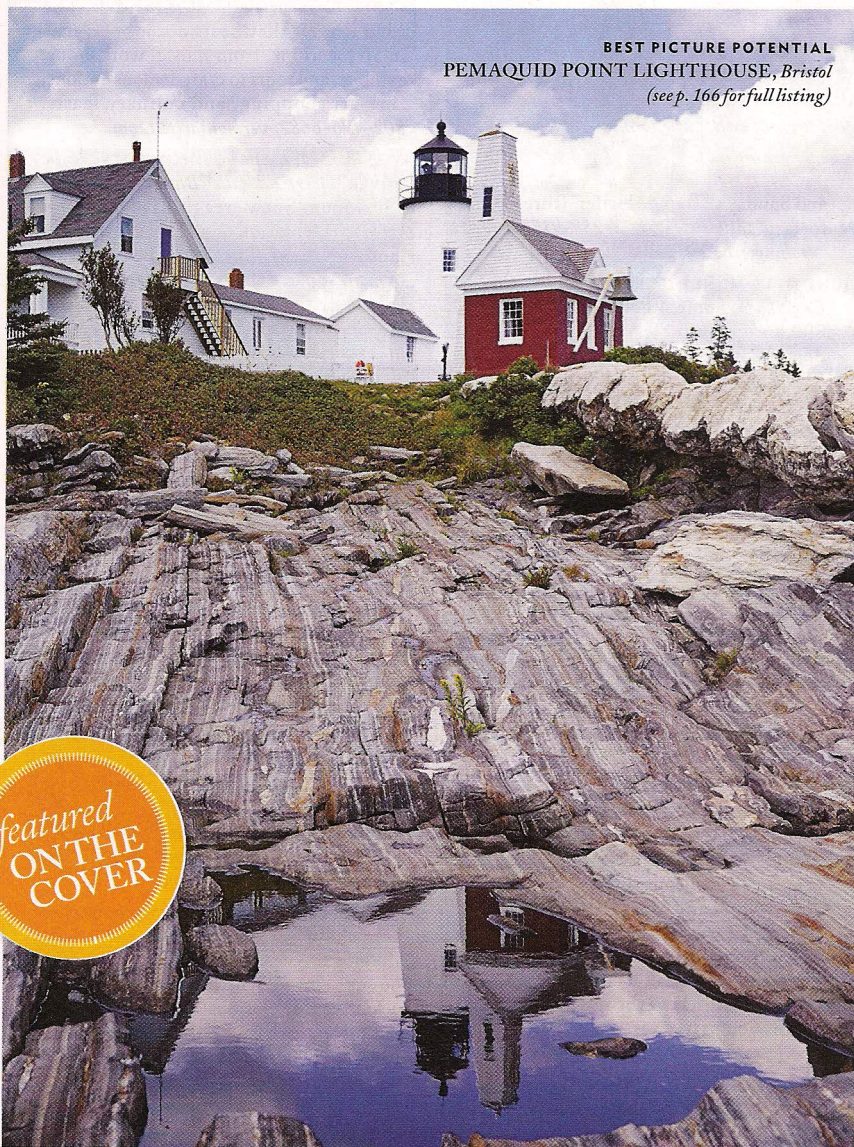


MAINE



BEST PICTURE POTENTIAL
PEMAQUID POINT LIGHTHOUSE, *Bristol*
(see p. 166 for full listing)

featured
ON THE
COVER

FOOD & DINING

BEST MAINE MEXICALI

LOCO COCO'S TACOS, *Kittery*

Transplanted Californians think they've been transported home when they sink their teeth into the burritos, enchiladas, and tacos served at this Cal-Mex restaurant, where some of the recipes have been passed down for generations.

Choose from self-serve, dining room, or lounge seating. Entrées: from \$6.95. 36 Walker St. 207-438-9322; locococos.com

BEST TASTE OF THE ISLANDS

JAMAICAN JERK CENTER, *Cape Neddick*

Pair curried goat, jerk chicken, or ackee and saltfish with ginger beer while grooving to Bob Marley or a live reggae band at this roadside takeout. On a sultry night, you might even think

you're cruising the Caribbean. Entrées: from \$10.95. 1400 Route 1. 207-351-3033; jamaicanjerkcenter.com

BEST LUNCH TO GO

MICUCCI GROCERY CO., *Portland*

See those folks hanging around the back corner of Portland's Italian grocery? They're waiting for Stephen Lanzalotta's Sicilian slab pizza to emerge from the oven. One bite of the made-from-scratch, crisp-yet-chewy crust—topped with perfectly seasoned tomato sauce and mozzarella—and you'll be hooked, too. Pizza: from \$4.50 per slab; from \$18 per small pie; from \$36 per large pie. 45 India St. 207-775-1854

BEST CHOWDER

DOLPHIN MARINA & RESTAURANT, *South Harpswell*

World peace might be achieved if the power brokers discussed their differences over a bowl of Dolphin's chowder or lobster stew, accompanied by a blueberry muffin, while watching boats bob in Pott's Harbor. Entrées: from \$16.95. 515 Basin Point Road. 207-833-6000; dolphinmarinaandrestaurant.com

BEST FRIED FISH

BET'S FISH FRY, *Boothbay*

Bet Finocchiaro prepares 1,500 pounds of haddock and 800 pounds of potatoes weekly at her roadside takeout. She no longer catches the fish herself, but she still uses her grandmother's breeding recipe and whips up her own special tartar sauce. Be forewarned: Portions are humongous. Entrées: from \$7 (half portion). 21 Common Drive (off Route 27). 207-208-7477

BEST NEW COMFORT FOODS

SHEPHERD'S PIE, *Rockport*

Brian Hill takes the usual and gives it a twist, resulting in menu options such as duck hot dogs, smoked alewife pizza, and rock-crab ceviche—along with a mighty fine shepherd's pie—all served with a view over Rockport's harbor. Lunch entrées: from \$10; dinner entrées: from \$16. 18 Central St. 207-236-8500

BEST MAINE TRADITION

TEA & POPOVERS, JORDAN POND HOUSE, *Acadia National Park*

After hiking one of Acadia's peaks or biking the carriage trails, reward yourself with tea and popovers (\$9.25) on the pond-view lawn. Go ahead—splurge on the ice cream, and slather on the jam. Heaven! Park Loop Road. 207-276-3610; thejordanpondhouse.com

LODGING

BEST CHOICE FOR ARCHITECTURE BUFFS

ANGEL OF THE BERWICKS,

North Berwick

Inside and out, the 25-room Hurd Manor is a gem, showcasing hand-painted 11-foot ceilings, detailed friezes, elaborate woodwork, and plentiful antiques. Rates: from \$99, including full breakfast. 2 Elm St. 207-676-2133; angeloftheberwicks.com

BEST CLASSIC SEASIDE RESORT

THE COLONY, *Kennebunkport*

The genteel, oceanside Colony blends old-fashioned grace with exceptional service, a pet-friendly attitude, and a green commitment. It's a timeless classic, best for those who savor a TV-free vacation. Rates: from \$159, including full buffet breakfast. 140 Ocean Ave. 800-552-2363, 207-967-3331; thecolonyhotel.com

BEST DESIGNER ROOM

HARRASEEKET INN, *Freeport*

For fans of Shaker-inspired furniture, staying in the Harraseeket's chic Thomas Moser Room is a treat. This oversized space, decorated by

Moser's team, blends traditional and contemporary designs accented with works by Maine artists. Rates: Moser Room \$350 (summer), including full buffet breakfast and afternoon tea; other rooms from \$195, including full buffet breakfast and afternoon tea. 162 Main St. 800-342-6423, 207-865-9377; harraseeketinn.com

BEST RESTORATIVE RETREAT

KISMET INN, *Bath*

Steam showers, Japanese soaking tubs, all-natural linens, yoga classes, spa services, and made-from-scratch meals prepared with primarily organic and locally sourced foods welcome guests to Shadi Towfighi's sublime B&B, a downtown oasis of tranquility. Hint: Reserve a truly indulgent yet healthful dinner prepared and served by Shadi. Rates: from \$210, including breakfast. 44 Summer St. 207-443-3399; kismetinnmaine.com

BEST RETRO LODGING

MID-TOWN MOTEL,

Boothbay Harbor

Budget-conscious travelers love this spotless, family-owned, 1950s-era motel—and its walk-to-everything downtown location averts any parking hassles. Rates: from \$89. 96 McKown St. 207-633-2751; midtownmaine.com

BEST FRIED FISH
BET'S FISH FRY, *Boothbay*
(see p. 160 for full listing)



BEST WRAPAROUND PORCH

LIMEROCK INN, *Rockland*

Help yourself to a soft drink and a snack from the guest pantry, select a book from the library, and settle into the swinging settee on the porch wrapping around this magnificent Queen Anne B&B. Rates: from \$159, including full breakfast. 96 Limerock St. 800-546-3762, 207-594-2257; limerockinn.com