Best of the Gold Coast

GREENWICH

JULY AUGUST
2026 / $6.95

BEST

NEW RESTAURANT
// LA BISTRO

See who else made our local list, alongside this Cos Cob gem that continues to earn its loyal following.

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Top Dentists in Fairfield County

SPECIAL PULL-OUT EDUCATION GUIDE

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FOOD & DRINKS • SHOP+STYLE • SERVICES+TO-DO'S

the Best

MOFFLY MEDIA
BEST of the GOLD COAST
CONNECTICUT • 2026
readers' picks

CELEBRATING OUR FABULOUS READERS' FAVORITES IN

170+ CATEGORIES!

OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY OF TERRAIN; BARTACO; VENERA ALEXANDROVA; FJORD FISH MARKET

From garden inspiration to waterfront dining, these standout local favorites—Terrain, bartaco, Rowayton Seafood and Fjord Fish Market—capture the best of the season in Fairfield County.

Cheers to summer, best celebrated with freshly shucked oysters and water views.

FOOD TRUCK // COPPS ISLAND OYSTER SHACK

Parked at marinas in Stratford and Norwalk, Copps Island Oyster Shack has earned a devoted following for its lobster rolls, ultra-fresh oysters and raw bar classics. The family-run favorite lives by its "boat to table" philosophy—growing, shucking and serving its own oysters with the kind of dock-to-tray freshness that tastes unmistakably like summer on the Connecticut coast. In Norwalk, live music and sunset views add to the scene; in Stratford, the quieter marina setting feels like a hidden gem locals almost want to keep to themselves.

FOOD & DRINKS

"Where should we eat?" may be the most commonly repeated phrase in Fairfield County—and lately, the answers just keep getting better. The challenge isn't finding somewhere good; it's narrowing down the options. From new additions and old-school institutions to neighborhood gems locals almost hesitate to share, this year's winners reflect how we really eat now: spritzes on sunny patios, impeccable Italian meals served with a side of trivia, Chinese takeout on regular rotation and lobster rolls worth going out of your way for. These are the spots people return to again and again—the standing reservations, the comfort orders and the places locals insist you absolutely have to try.

photograph by VENERA ALEXANDROVA

readers' picks

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RESTAURANT

BEST SERVICE
TONY'S AT THE J HOUSE
1114 E. Putnam Ave., Riverside,
203-698-6999;
tonysatthejhouse.com

BUSINESS LUNCH
MILESTONE
2 Main St., Redding,
203-587-1700;
milestonect.com

CREATIVE MENU
THE COTTAGE
49 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich,
203-769-1220 |
256 Post Rd. E., Westport,
203-557-3701;
thecottage.kitchen

HOTEL RESTAURANT
ARTISAN
275 Old Post Rd., Southport,
203-307-4222;
artisansouthport.com

NEW RESTAURANT
ROOTS OCEAN PRIME
14 Grove St., Darien,
203- 202-8340;
rootssteakhouse.com

OUTDOOR DINING + SEAFOOD
THE RESTAURANT AT ROWAYTON SEAFOOD
89 Rowayton Ave., Rowayton,
203-866-4488;
rowaytonseafood.com

PRIVATE DINING/INTIMATE VENUE
GABRIELE'S OF WESTPORT
27 Powers Ct., Westport,
203-454-4922;
gabrielesofwestportct.com

SPECIAL OCCASION/DATE NIGHT
TAVERN AT GRAYBARNS
194 Perry Ave., Norwalk,
203-580-1900;
tavernatgraybarns.com

STEAKS
WASHINGTON PRIME
141 Washington St., Norwalk,
203-857-1314;
washingtonprimect.com

SUSHI
OKO
6 Wilton Rd., Westport,
203-557-8404;
okokitchen.com

TAPAS
BARCELONA WINE BAR
4180 Black Rock Tpk., Fairfield,
203-255-0800 |
222 Summer St., Stamford,
203-348-4800;
See all locations at
barcelonawinebar.com

editor's pick
SPECIAL OCCASION + DATE NIGHT
"I love that every visit to GrayBarns can feel completely different—charcuterie and a glass of wine with a friend at The Mercantile, a quiet date night on the porch overlooking the Silvermine River or a fun group dinner in The Tavern."

Eileen Murphy, Editor, New Canaan, Darien + Rowayton

SPECIALTIES

AMERICAN
THE AMERICANO
261 Main St., Stamford,
203-276-8918;
theamericanobar.com

ASIAN/ASIAN FUSION
DIPPIN' CHICKEN
236 East Ave., Norwalk,
203-286-6355;
dippinchicken.com

CHINESE
CHING'S TABLE
64 Main St., New Canaan,
203-972-8550;
chingstable.com

FRENCH
RIVE BISTRO
299 Riverside Ave., Westport,
203-557-8049;
rivebistro.com

GREEK/MEDITERRANEAN
KOUZINA GREEK TAVERNA & BAR
223 Main St., Stamford,
203-588-0110;
kouzinataverna.com

INDIAN
COROMANDEL CUISINE OF INDIA
25 Old Kings Hwy. N., Darien,
631-837-2419;
coromandeldarienct.com

ITALIAN
CAFÉ SILVIUM
371 Shippan Ave., Stamford,
203-324-1651;
cafesilviumct.com

JAPANESE
OKO
6 Wilton Rd., Westport,
203-557-8404;
okokitchen.com

MIDDLE EASTERN
LAYLA'S FALAFEL
2088 Black Rock Tpk., Fairfield,
203-384-0100 |
High Ridge Rd., Stamford,
203-461-8004 |
1535 Post Rd. E., Westport,
203-955-1583;
See all locations at
laylasfalafel.com

MEXICAN
BARTACO
222 Summer St., Stamford,
203-323-8226 |
20 Wilton Rd., Westport,
203-222-8226;
bartaco.com

THAI
LITTLE THAI KITCHEN
4 West Ave., Darien,
203-662-0038 |
21 St. Roch Ave., Greenwich,
203-622-2972;
littlethaikitchen.com

VEGETARIAN
GREEN & TONIC
54 West Park Pl., Stamford,
203-274-7454 |
7 Strickland Rd., Cos Cob,
203-869-1376 |
1098 Post Rd., Darien,
203-656-1036 |
21 Forest St., New Canaan,
203-594-1851 |
17 Jesup Rd., Westport,
203-557-6392;
See all locations at
greenandtonic.com

Tony Capasso, maître d' and master of the room at Tony's at the J House.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KYLE NORTON

BEST SERVICE //
TONY'S AT THE J HOUSE
Which Greenwich restaurateur is known for remembering your name, checking on every table and casually quizzing diners between bites of steak and pasta? The answer, of course, is longtime maître d' Tony Capasso. After decades in the restaurant business—and since opening Tony's at the J House in 2019—Capasso has brought his signature warmth and throwback hospitality to the dining room, making guests feel like regulars from the moment they sit down. The expertly cooked steaks, classic Italian favorites and strong martinis certainly help—but it's Tony himself, working the room with his trademark charm and rapid-fire trivia questions, who keeps people coming back.

readers' picks

The steaks may be the headliners, but starters like fresh lobster and crab prove that Roots Ocean Prime is just as serious about seafood.

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NEW RESTAURANT // ROOTS OCEAN PRIME

At Roots Ocean Prime, dinner comes with a little old-school swagger. Servers in white jackets glide through the dining room, martinis arrive ice-cold with backup frozen glasses waiting in the wings, and the steaks are exactly what you want them to be: perfectly cooked and worthy of the hype surrounding Darien's buzzy newcomer. Then there's the giant sundae: a towering, slightly over-the-top finale that practically guarantees at least one neighboring table will ask, "Wait…what is that?"

PHOTOGRAPHY: VENERA ALEXANDROVA

editor's pick

FROZEN YOGURT

"My love of froyo existed long before the current buzz, and 16 Handles gets that. No trend-chasing, no fuss. For me, just the original tart with a swirl of mint chip, a handful of strawberries and carob chips, always. Conveniently located in downtown Fairfield. Easy parking, the vibe is good, and it's the spot where everyone walks out the door looking genuinely happy. The 16 Handles froyo joy is real."

Samantha Yanks, Editor, Westport, Weston & Wilton

The kimchi salmon bowl is tossed in a creamy gochujang dressing.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF CHOPT

BOWLS // CHOPT

CHOPT cracked the code on the workday lunch: customizable bowls that feel virtuous without being boring. Fresh ingredients, bold dressings and plenty of protein options keep regulars coming back.

CASUAL DINING

BAGELS

UPPER CRUST BAGEL CO.

980 Post Rd., Darien |
11 South Ave., New Canaan |
19 First St., Norwalk |
203-655-7566;
uppercrustbagelcompany.com

BBQ

BJ RYAN'S BANC HOUSE

16 River St, Norwalk,
203-853-7926;
bjryansbanchouse.com

BOWLS

CHOPT

1271 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich |
1081 High Ridge Rd., Stamford |
203-409-5811;
choptsalad.com

BREAKFAST

TASTY YOLK

2992 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport,
475-282-0015;
thetastyyolk.com

BRUNCH + CAFÉ/BISTRO

TERRAIN GARDEN CAFÉ

561 Post Rd. E., Westport,
203-557-9195;
shopterrain.com

BURRITOS

LA TAQUERIA

10 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich |
1077 Boston Post Rd., Darien |
203-557-9195;
taqueriact.com

COFFEE SHOP (INDEPENDENT)

CFCF COFFEE

118 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich,
203-661-9494;
cfcfcoffee.com

DELI

A&S ITALIAN FINE FOODS

2290 Black Rock Tpk., Fairfield,
203-333-1448;
asfinefoods.com

DINER

THE STAMFORD DINER

135 Harvard Ave., Stamford,
203-323-9988;
thestamforddiner.com

FAMILY FRIENDLY RESTAURANT + PIZZA

COLONY GRILL

1520 Post Rd., Fairfield,
203-259-1989 |
515 West Ave., Norwalk,
203-866-5252 |
172 Myrtle Ave., Stamford,
203-359-2184;
See all locations at
colonygrill.com

FOOD TRUCK

COPPS ISLAND OYSTER SHACK

Galley at Cove Marina,
50a Calf Pasture Beach Rd.,
Norwalk |
638 Selby's Pond Rd., Stratford,
coppsislandoystershack.com

FROZEN YOGURT

16 HANDLES

1300 Post Rd., Fairfield,
203-292-9841 |
219 Bedford St., Stamford,
203-817-0707;
See all locations at *16handles.com*

HAMBURGERS

LITTLE PUB

531 E. Putnam Ave., Cos Cob,
203-717-1147 |
2133 Black Rock Tpk., Fairfield,
203-612-4567 |
41 Saugatuck Ave., Westport,
203-227-0511 |
26 Danbury Rd., Wilton,
203-762-1122;
See all locations at *littlepub.com*

readers' picks

BRUNCH + CAFÉ BISTRO // TERRAIN

A trip to Terrain in Westport is always a good idea. You may come for the endless home and garden inspiration, but the café has become just as much of a destination—especially on a leisurely weekend when the only real agenda is brunch, browsing and possibly leaving with a new plant you definitely didn't plan on buying. Located within the dreamy lifestyle store, the restaurant serves beautifully plated seasonal dishes in a setting that feels equal parts greenhouse, garden party and welcome escape from real life.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF TERRAIN

HOTEL RESTAURANT // ARTISAN

Once the weather warms up, a table on the patio at Artisan becomes highly coveted real estate. Tucked into the charming courtyard at the Delamar Southport, it's the kind of place to slow down and stay a while—lingering over coastal-inspired dishes, indulging in crisp glasses of wine and cocktails that taste even better outdoors. On summer evenings, with string lights overhead and another round on the way, it's easy to forget you're only a few minutes from home.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF ARTISAN

readers' picks

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CASUAL DINING

CONTINUED FROM P.67

HEALTH/ORGANIC FOOD

GRANOLA BAR
1020 Post Rd., Darien,
475-328-0994 |
1876 Black Rock Tpk., Fairfield,
203-692-4311 |
41 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich,
203-883-5220 |
700 Canal St., Stamford,
203-883-0304 |
275 Post Rd. E., Westport,
203-557-0945;
thegranolabar.com

ICE CREAM/GELATO

SUNNY DAES
2505 Black Rock Tpk., Fairfield,
203-372-3058 |
808 Post Rd., Fairfield,
203-256-9055 |
211 Main St., Norwalk,
203-295-8528 |
633 Shippan Ave., Stamford,
203-977-0661 |
30 Riverside Ave., Westport,
203-557-4212;
See all locations at
sunnydaesicecream.com

JUICE BAR

GREEN & TONIC
7 Strickland Rd., Cos Cob,
203-869-1376 |
665 Commerce Dr., Fairfield,
203-345-0995 |
21 Forest St., New Canaan,
203-594-1851 |
17 Jesup Rd., Westport,
203-557-6392;
see all locations at
greenandtonic.com

LUNCH SPOT

SPOTTED HORSE TAVERN
26 Church Ln., Westport,
203-226-0606;
spottedhorsetavern.com

NOODLE BAR/NOODLES

MECHA NOODLE BAR
1215 Post Rd., Fairfield,
203-292-8222 |
116 Washington St., Norwalk,
203-295-8718 |
151 Bedford St., Stamford,
203-801-7577;
See all locations at
mechanoodlebar.com

SALADS

AUX DÉLICES
25 Old Kings Hwy., Darien,
203-662-1136 |
3 W. Elm St., Greenwich,
203-622-6644 |
1075 E. Putnam Ave., Riverside,
203-698-1066 |
1035 Post Rd. E., Westport,
203-557-9600;
See all locations at
auxdelicesfoods.com

staff pick

GOURMET TO-GO
"The French bistro ham and cheddar on a mini baguette is my go-to Aux Délices order. Paired with a side of kale salad and a lemonade–passion fruit iced tea, it's a lunch that always hits the spot."

Venera Alexandrova, Senior Art Director, Greenwich and New Canaan, Darien + Rowayton

Raphaël's family-run bakery offers fresh sandwiches.

MARKETS + MORE

BAKERY + DESSERT/PASTRIES

RAPHAËL'S BAKERY
146 Mason St., Greenwich,
203-485-0450 |
370 Heights Rd, Darien,
203-655-3478;
raphsbakery.com

BUTCHER

STEW LEONARD'S
100 Westport Ave., Norwalk,
203-750-8000;
stewleonards.com

CAKES/CUPCAKES

DIMARE PASTRY SHOP
12 Largo Dr., Stamford,
203-967-2253;
dimarepastry.com

CATERER

MARCIA SELDEN CATERING & EVENTS
65 Research Dr., Stamford,
203-353-8000;
marciaselden.com

CHOCOLATE SHOP

BE CHOCOLAT
75 Hillside Rd., Fairfield,
203-292-5981; *bechocolat.com*

FARMERS' MARKETS/ LOCAL GOODS

WESTPORT FARMERS' MARKET
50 Imperial Ave., Westport,
203-293-9378;
westportfarmersmarket.com

GOURMET GROCERY

THE PANTRY
1580 Post Rd., Fairfield,
203-259-0400;
thepantry.net

GOURMET TO-GO

AUX DÉLICES
25 Old Kings Hwy., Darien,
203-662-1136 |
3 W. Elm St., Greenwich,
203-622-6644 |
1075 E. Putnam Ave., Riverside,
203-698-1066 |
1035 Post Rd. E., Westport,
203-557-9600;
auxdelicesfoods.com

LIQUOR STORE

TOTAL WINE & MORE
380 Main St., Norwalk,
203-840-0007;
See all locations at *totalwine.com*

SEAFOOD MARKET

FJORD FISH MARKET
1015 Boston Post Rd., Darien,
203-202-9473 |
158 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich,
203-661-5006 |
22 East Ave., New Canaan,
203-966-2200 |
1835 Post Rd. E., Westport,
203-255-9331;
see all locations at
fjordfishmarket.com

WINE SHOP

HARRY'S WINE & LIQUOR MARKET
2094 Post Rd., Fairfield,
203-259-4692; *harryswine.com*

PHOTOGRAPH: VENERA ALEXANDROVA

CATERER //

MARCIA SELDEN CATERING
For decades, family-run Marcia Selden Catering has been behind some of the area's most memorable weddings, galas and backyard celebrations, pulling off events that somehow feel both polished and deeply personal. Guests may remember the beautiful tables or impeccable service, but what really sets the Selden team apart is their ability to make events feel warm, lively and genuinely fun.

PHOTOGRAPH: FRED MARCUS STUDIO

Pass the pita: This lush green tablescape pairs perfectly with a Greek mezze menu designed for sharing.

readers' picks

New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton editor Eileen Murphy builds her own bouquet with blooms from Muddy Feet Flower Farm.

PHOTOGRAPHY: VENERA ALEXANDROVA

FARMERS' MARKETS + LOCAL GOODS // WESTPORT FARMERS' MARKET

A quick stop at the Westport Farmers' Market rarely stays quick. One minute, you're picking up tomatoes, the next you're leaving with just-baked bread, fresh flowers, local honey and ambitious plans to cook something seasonal. Beloved for its mix of regional farms, artisanal vendors and strong sense of community, the market has become as much a weekend ritual as a place to shop. On any given Thursday, you'll find chefs, families and devoted regulars weaving through the stalls with coffee in hand, catching up with vendors they've known for years.

BAR BOASTS

BEST

BEER SELECTION + OUTDOOR BAR

314 BEER GARDEN
314 Wilton Ave., Norwalk,
203-857-1516;
314beergarden.com

MARGARITAS

BARTACO
222 Summer St., Stamford,
203-323-8226 |
20 Wilton Rd., Westport,
203-222-8226;
bartaco.com

MARTINIS

WASHINGTON PRIME
141 Washington St., Norwalk,
washingtonprimect.com

MICROBREWERY

TWO ROADS BREWING
1700 Stratford Ave., Stratford;
tworoadsbrewing.com

MOBILE BAR + PUB + RESTAURANT BAR

LITTLE PUB
531 E. Putnam Ave., Cos Cob,
203-717-1147 |
2133 Black Rock Tpk., Fairfield,
203-612-4567 |
41 Saugatuck Ave., Westport,
203-227-0511 |
26 Danbury Rd., Wilton,
203-762-1122;
See all locations at *littlepub.com*

NON-ALCOHOLIC / MOCKTAILS

MECHA NOODLE BAR
1215 Post Rd., Fairfield,
203-292-8222 |
116 Washington St., Norwalk,
203-295-8718 |
151 Bedford St., Stamford,
203-801-7577;
See all locations at *mechanoodlebar.com*

SPORTS BAR

THE BLIND RHINO
3425 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport,
203-362-5001 |
15 N. Main St., South Norwalk,
203-956-7243;
theblindrhino.com

WINE BAR

BARCELONA WINE BAR
4180 Black Rock Tpk., Fairfield,
203-255-0800 |
222 Summer St., Stamford,
203-348-4800;
See all locations at *barcelonawinebar.com*

WINE LIST

CASA ME
7 Sconset Sq., Westport,
203-571-3230;
casamecafe.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF MECHA NOODLE BAR

Bright flavors, eye-catching presentations and a little sense of fun have made Mecha's beverage program a local favorite.

BEST

NON-ALCOHOLIC+ MOCKTAILS // MECHA NOODLE BAR

Mecha Noodle Bar's playful, flavor-packed mocktails are every bit as thoughtful as the cocktails—bright, layered drinks that arrive looking just as good as everything else on the table. Whether paired with steaming bowls of ramen, bao buns or late-night snacks with friends, they've become a go-to order for anyone wanting something festive without the hangover.