

## **Fenwick Island Dining Guide**

Courtesy of Fenwick Island Oceanfront Rental

[www.fenwickoceanfront.com](http://www.fenwickoceanfront.com)

Instagram: @Fenwick\_Island\_Oceanfront

Drinking and dining options in Fenwick Island have dramatically expanded over the course of my 30 year love affair with this small, unique hamlet located between the honky-tonk of Ocean City, and the established “quiet resort” of Bethany Beach. My friends and family always enjoyed going out, but we came here for the uncrowded beaches and not necessarily “for the food.” Times have really changed. Fenwick Island is now a place where you have choices of places where you can get a world-class meal. At the same time, Fenwick dining has kept a true, local, “Indie” character.

I’m offering this personal, subjective guide to my guests who ask me where to go out. I’ve limited it to places that one can easily walk to from my home, and that I can vouch for with my personal experience. It’s organized it by my personal top picks, and other great places you might enjoy. If a Fenwick Island restaurant is not on this list, it’s only because it’s not easily walkable from my place, or I haven’t been there. Would love to have your feedback!

### **Kathy’s Picks**

#### **David Twining’s Nantucket’s Restaurant**

[nantucketsrestaurant.com](http://nantucketsrestaurant.com)

Our sentimental favorite and a short block and a half from our place — go out the front door, take a left, and then the first right. You’ll find Nantucket’s right at Bayard Avenue and Coastal Highway next to the Royal Farms. Seafood, steaks, crab cakes, bar food — and the legendary quahog chowdah.

Their bar opens for happy hour at 4 pm — the adults in my extended family like to take turns in pairs or quads to walk down, sit at the bar, and enjoy cocktails and food at the bar while other family members babysit with little ones. Their white tablecloth restaurant welcomes families of all sizes and ages with good humored but elegant service. They will also cater. The bar is very popular with locals and visitors alike — during high season go early or be prepared to wait.

## **Royal Farms**

A convenience store on a dining guide? Here's why: I like to wake up before everyone else, walk a block and a half to Royal Farms, go to their extensive coffee/creamer bar for a couple of large to-go cups, and walk back with a dozen fresh Crispy Creme donuts. This is also a great place to go early to pick up made to order sandwiches and subs to pack for a day on the beach, and everyone tells me that their fried chicken is great. Their grocery selection is limited but very handy if you are missing something basic.

## **One Coastal**

[onecoastal.com](http://onecoastal.com)

One Coastal is high on my top pick list with a one of a kind, “hyper-local” experience, small, perfect, and ever changing seasonal menu, and all around great atmosphere. It's run by a young couple who grow a lot of the food on their own farm, and source the rest from the best independent places. This is a local farm table experience located easy walking distance on Coastal Highway between Indigo Octopus and the Fenwick Bike Shop (both local places well worth checking out.)

If you want to eat here, you should probably make a reservation as it is quite small — in high season, preferably in advance. Or, you can be like a local or “regular” and come when they open at 5 to sit at the bar where you can enjoy the full menu, or a snack. You will enjoy watching the bartenders expertly making innovative and tasty cocktails.

## **Our Harvest**

[ourharvestde.com](http://ourharvestde.com)

Our Harvest is another new entry that focuses on selectively sourced foods from independent makers. I always look forward to sitting at their bar and grazing on their innovative small plates menu — that way I can try lots of things. On recent visit I enjoyed charred fish collars with lemon yoghurt, ricotta and crab meat stuffed squash blossoms, wagyu flank steak, and blistered peppers. (I was back two evenings later to taste other tempting and unusually prepared items!)

Our Harvest is possibly best known for their “feasts” — “large format proteins” with sides meant to be shared. The menu varies, but recent selections have included “steak harvest,” whole Amish rotisserie chicken, fish harvest, and surprising and creative themed platters. @ourharvestde on Instagram makes for a mouthwatering and addictive follow. Our Harvest does not take reservations and they open at 5. If you need to seat a group, I recommend that you get there at 5 pm. You can usually find spots at the large and welcoming bar, and that is where I like to eat. This place is family friendly fine dining.

## **Just Hooked**

[justhookedfi.com](http://justhookedfi.com)

Another delicious, “farm/sea to table” restaurant from the Off the Hook Restaurant Group that has additional restaurants in Ocean City and Bethany. The menu is seafood-centric — “where ocean and farm meet table” — and features starters such as calamari, poke, clam bake and mussels, and entrees such as tuna, lobster, mahi mahi and swordfish. They always have land based based selections as well — the burgers are delicious. They are open for lunch.

## **Pottery Place and Perk’s Cafe**

[potteryplacede.com](http://potteryplacede.com)

Perk’s Cafe is located in the back of Pottery Place, and while not a full service restaurant, it is a great place to get coffee, espresso drinks, muffins, bagels and sweets to enjoy while wandering around this fabulous home and garden store.

## **Grab and Go Taco**

[grabandgotaco.com](http://grabandgotaco.com)

This “best tacos in Delaware” place does not have any seating, but the tacos and quesadillas are absolutely fresh and delicious. Don’t forget to try the “green crack sauce.” My kids like to walk up from the beach to “grab” some for the group. They are right next to Fisher’s Popcorn on Coastal Highway.

## **Fisher’s Popcorn**

[fisherspopcorn.com](http://fisherspopcorn.com)

Popped and coated fresh while you watch, Fisher’s Popcorn comes sized from 2 oz bags to 2 gallon tubs. You will want to make at least two trips here — once for family movie night, and a second time to bring tubs home for pet and plant sitters. All the flavors can come dusted with Old Bay.

## **Big Eye Jack's**

[bigeyejacks.com](http://bigeyejacks.com)

Big Eye Jack's can be described as the best beach bar from your Caribbean honeymoon or Key West singles vacation — but with a big sandpit for your children to play. It's family friendly, but also a place you can go late night to enjoy the upstairs bar and oyster shooters.

## **Dairy Queen**

The quintessential beach vacation experience must be strolling with the kids on a cool evening to Dairy Queen for a frozen treat. It can get busy here but the staff always have time to hold the Blizzard upside down before handing it over.

## **More Great Places**

### **Matteo's Salsa Loco**

[matteossalsaloco.com](http://matteossalsaloco.com)

A very good quality Mexican cantina/seafood fashion place with a lively bar featuring live music. Matteo's will also deliver to the beach — you have to walk down to Atlantic Avenue to pick it up. Details are on their web site.

### **Jimmy's Kitchen**

1300 Coastal Highway

Open early to serve up creamed chipped beef, steak and eggs, hash browns, and diner fare. I go out for breakfast but many of our guests rave about this place.

### **Warren's Station**

[warrensstation.com](http://warrensstation.com)

Warren's Station has been a fixture in Fenwick Island for over 50 years. A family-owned family restaurant, it serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### **Crepes and Crazes**

[crepesandcrazes.com](http://crepesandcrazes.com)

A casual and eclectic combo crepes/wraps/gift shop that serves breakfast and lunch.

### **Bahama's Crab Shack**

[bahamascrabshack.com/](http://bahamascrabshack.com/)

Bahama's is located on the oceanside of Coastal Highway right at the Delaware Maryland line at Rt. 54. You can call ahead to order and they will pack your FAT crabs up for you.

### **Fenwick Crab House**

[fenwickcrabhouse.com](http://fenwickcrabhouse.com)

Another Fenwick Island fixture that, although it has changed ownership, has been around since the 1960s. This popular and family friendly place does not take reservations, but you can call 30 minutes before arrival to put your name on the list which may minimize your wait on busy nights.

### **Mancini's Brick Oven Pizzeria**

[mancinisbop.com](http://mancinisbop.com)

A family oriented pizzeria and restaurant. It's been years since I've been there but they appear to be very popular.

### **Ha-Ha's Frozen Yogurt**

In the Village of Fenwick Shops across Coastal Highway, Ha-Ha's is open until 10 PM. It's a place where you fill your container with your choice of soft serve ice cream and top it with what you like and as much as you like of it. Ha-Ha's features an impressive selection of toppings from typical to unique — boba, jellies, candies, hot fudge, you name it, all arranged buffet style. Take your creation to the to register, and they will weigh it and charge you accordingly. If you meet or exceed 20 ounces — welcome to the 20 Ounce Club! You can have your picture taken for Instagram. It's a lot of fun. A few picnic benches outside.

### **fi-na-le**

[fi-na-le.com](http://fi-na-le.com)

A very fun waterfront bayside restaurant and bar with outdoor seating, in the Village of Fenwick. It has a kid's menu.

**Flying Fish Cafe**

[flyingfishfenwick.com](http://flyingfishfenwick.com)

Fenwick Island's only sushi place — it's open for dinner every day but Monday, and open for lunch on Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Reservations recommended.

**Twilley's Willys**

[www.twilleyswillys.com](http://www.twilleyswillys.com)

A casual spot in the Bayside Village of Fenwick. Excellent hot dogs in many styles as well as wraps, cheese steaks, burgers, fish n chips and more. They recently added a full bar.

**Surf's Edge Deli & Pizzeria**

[surfsledgedeli.com](http://surfsledgedeli.com)

Good quality and popular pizza-sub-sandwich-salad place. Just the sort of place you need at the beach.

Did I miss your favorite? Did I get anything wrong? Anything else you would like visitors to know about your favorite Fenwick Island spot? Contact me at [kathy\\_in\\_fenwick@me.com](mailto:kathy_in_fenwick@me.com) or at [fenwickoceanfront.com](http://fenwickoceanfront.com)