

# Wharf Tavern: There is a New England Style Restaurant in Naples



*Written by D. A. O'Connell*

New England is not so far away. For going on five seasons the Wharf Tavern Restaurant & Lobster House has been offering authentic New England seafood on the Bay in the heart of Olde Naples. Take a drive downtown, turn into the Naples Boat Club at 909 10th St. S. and find authentic New England seafood, waterfront ambience, charm and hospitality. If you're in the mood for something different than the typical Florida style restaurant, this might just be the spot for you. While seafood is their specialty, there are options for those who desire food from the land. There's something for everyone, so bring the whole family. The Wharf Tavern Restaurant & Lobster House is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. For lunch, customer favorite starters include Quahog Chowder, Mussels Dijonnaise, Angel Hair Onion Rings, and Rhode Island style Calamari. Also choose from Bacon wrapped Scallops, Stuffed Quahogs (traditional New England Clam stuffing baked in the shell and serve with lemon and drawn butter), Clams Casino or Crab Cakes made with lump Crab and Shrimp. There are salads including Caesar, Tossed Mixed Green, and Spinach; and you may select grilled Chicken, Salmon, or Shrimp as an add-on. Sandwiches are served with French Fries and Coleslaw. There are selections ranging from Tuna or Seafood Salad to Burgers, fried Clam rolls or Lobster Salad rolls. If your lunch appetite is hearty, select a fried Seafood platter; or choose from whole bellied fried Clams, jumbo fried Shrimp, Fish & Chips, or Sea Scallops, each served with Fries and Coleslaw. Tempting dinner entrees include single or twin Maine Lobsters, steamed

or baked stuffed and served with potato and vegetable, pasta dishes like Zuppa di Pesci or Shrimp Scampi, fillet of Sole, Bouillabaisse and baked stuffed Flounder. Options for landlubbers include Chicken Français or Marsala, Blackened Chicken Pasta, a decadent 8 ounce Filet Mignon, or a boneless 1 Pound Braveheart Black Angus grilled Ribeye. Top off your feast with the delectable dessert and select from dense and rich chocolate mousse Cake, a slice of creamy Cheesecake, Key lime pie, or caramelized Crème Brûlée.

At the full-service bar, that seats 14+, you'll find patrons drinking up Happy Hour specials from 11 AM to 6 PM with bottled domestic beer available for \$3.50, \$2. Drafts (\$3.50 Sam Adams), \$3. Well drinks, \$4. House Wine, and \$5. Martinis. There are Bar specials which include Buffalo Wings served with blue cheese and celery sticks, "Stuffies" (baked stuffed Quahogs), and a selection of fried Seafood served a la carte, in addition to the steamed Maine Lobster special served with Fries and Coleslaw available all day. It's been a difficult winter up north for our lobster suppliers and therefore prices have been on the rise; if that scares you try something new on the menu, like the potato encrusted Salmon, Swordfish Bruschetta, or Chicken Carbonara.

The Wharf Tavern Restaurant & Lobster House is family owned and operated. Henry and Deidre Diodati, who both grew up in New England, have been residents in Naples since 1997. Henry is a native Rhode Islander. As a young boy he saw his uncles make their living from the sea as commercial fisherman, back when the Swordfish was abundant and the kitchen sink was always filled with whatever catch was available. He learned to dig clams and scallops and fish with his family, and soon after was providing to his friends and neighbors. His passion for local seafood and the hospitality industry influenced him to begin working in the restaurant business as a teenager. He started as a busboy and gradually worked his way up, learning every aspect of the business, until

eventually he bought his first restaurant in 1986. Deidre grew up in Massachusetts' South Shore and on Martha's Vineyard Island. Living near the shore, loving local seafood, and having a passion for hospitality brought her into the business in the late 80s. Together they have owned four successful restaurants and still run a bed-and-breakfast ([www.capricornhouse.com](http://www.capricornhouse.com)) on the resort island of Martha's Vineyard. As a result of their dedication and hard work they have mastered the authentic New England style seafood restaurant and have brought it here to Southwest Florida. The Diodati's are raising their four children in Naples; Joseph (21) works in the restaurant as a waiter and manager in the winter and in the summer works on Martha's Vineyard as a charter fisherman and commercial fisherman. He received his captain's license in 2013 and he hopes to own and operate his own fishing charter business in the future. Nicholas (19) is a sophomore honor student at FGCU, where he is studying business. Due to this heavy schedule he only works part time at the restaurant as a host, Busser, or wherever he is needed. Lucas (12) is in the 7th grade at Pine Ridge Middle School. He loves basketball, and plays on a team in North Naples. He started working at the restaurant this year, and is saving

all his money to buy some "rockin' new basketball sneakers. And Lylah (10) attends Pelican Marsh Elementary School. She's in the 5th grade, is smart, and has a creative spirit. She likes eating at the Wharf Tavern Restaurant (actually we all do) and would like to be the hostess someday; but in the meantime, she loves to dance and sing ... and be the boss of her older brothers (and parents - Lol).

The Wharf Tavern Restaurant & Lobster House is rapidly becoming a favorite destination for year-round residents, "snowbirds", and tourists looking for a good and affordable meal. Abundant and fresh, made with love... And "wicked good"!!!

Find out for yourself. We are celebrating St. Patrick's Days with Corned Beef and Cabbage on March 14th (the parade is in town, so we're celebrating on Saturday) AND on March 17th (because Tuesday is really St. Patrick's Day). Lunch, 11am - 3:30pm priced at \$21.99; Dinner 4pm - 9pm priced at \$24.99. CALL TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW 239-331-4053.

**Wharf Tavern Restaurant**

**Where:** 909 10th St. S., Naples, FL 34109

**Information:** 239-331-4053

**[www.wharftavernnaples.com](http://www.wharftavernnaples.com)**

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