

# Bellingham

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# Alive!

## *LEVEL UP*

*Home Upgrades by Room*



THE  
**MIXING  
TIN**

Apple Cider  
Margarita  
**Nicki's Bella Marina**

Ingredients:  
Jose Cuervo, Grand Marnier,  
orange juice, lemonade, house-  
made apple cider, \$9



Photo by Cocoa Laney

**C**HEERS TO SPRINGTIME! Winter is on its way out, and more sunshine is always cause for celebration. To properly usher in the warmer weather, we recommend an evening on the waterfront—preferably spent with a margarita in hand.

The signature marg at Nicki's Bella Marina isn't traditional, but it sure is yummy. House-made apple cider gives the drink an unexpected depth, and these sweeter notes are balanced by the citrus and oaky Grand Marnier. Shake all that up with a healthy glug of tequila and you've got the makings of an easy-drinking cocktail best enjoyed by the light of a springtime sunset. Be warned, however: This drink, while delicious, is deceptively strong. Sip slowly, savor, and enjoy the start of a new season. 2615 S Harbor Loop Dr., Bellingham, 360.332.2505 **COCOA LANEY**

**DOE BAY CAFÉ** American

107 Doe Bay Rd., Olga  
360.376.8059, doebay.com

Whether you're heading toward the San Juan Islands or don't mind taking a trip for an unbelievable meal, be sure to make reservations at the ever-popular Doe Bay Café. Owners Joe and Maureen Brotherton have stuck to their mission of providing world-class seafood and vegetarian dishes.

\$ \$ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

**FRIDAY HARBOR HOUSE** Regional NW

130 West St., Friday Harbor  
360.378.8455, fridayharborhouse.com

It's hard to beat the view of the ferry landing, marina, and San Juan Channel from Friday Harbor House—the hotel and restaurant provide a sweeping panorama of water and sky. In addition to the delicious food menu, Friday Harbor House is one of the few island restaurants to offer a full bar at brunch every day of the week.

\$ \$ \$ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

**INN AT LANGLEY** American

400 First St., Langley, 360.221.3033  
innatlangley.com

If beauty were a taste, this would be it. As a guest, you're taken on a mouth-watering culinary journey through a multi-course tasting menu. Not only is the meal a delight for the taste buds, but there are also surprises at each turn, whether it's the presentation or the accoutrements. Each guest is served as if they are the only one in the dining room. The menu is prix fixe, with an additional charge for wine pairing. Dinner here is more than just a meal; it's an experience.

\$ \$ \$ \$ ○ ○

**ISLAND SKILLET** Homestyle

325 Prune Alley, Eastsound, 360.376.3984

Beloved by loyal patrons for its large portions and casual, customizable meals, Island Skillet is a must-stop for anyone visiting Orcas Island. A rustic metal rooster outside the entrance sets the tone. Start the day with a skillet breakfast complete with a bottomless cup of coffee. Sandwiches rule the lunch menu, and you can choose from a lengthy list of sides and customizations for most items, so you can totally have it your way.

\$ ○ ○ ○ ○

**PRIMA BISTRÔ** French

201 1/2 First St., Langley  
360.221.4060, primabistro.com

A quintessential South Whidbey dining experience in the heart of Langley, Prima Bistro marries gourmet French cuisine and classic Northwest ingredients. The selection of red and white wines offers options for connoisseurs of