

Bellingham

NORTH SOUND LIFE

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Alive!



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BUCKET LIST



PROS TO KNOW

GARDENING Q & A



- SUMMER FUN -

BUCKET LIST

BY BECKY MANDELBAUM AND JULIA FURUKAWA

NOTHING MAKES YOU DREAM about the future quite like a government-issued shelter-in-place order. I don't know about you, but I spent most of my time in self-isolation planning what to do when the quarantine lifted, as well as noting everything I wished I would have done before the pandemic forced us to stay home.

My hope is that these pages will inspire you to dream big and then make these dreams a reality. What's a trip you've always wanted to take? A skill you've always wanted to learn? Whether it's running a marathon or learning another language, you never know what tomorrow might bring, so get working on your bucket list today. **BECKY MANDELBAUM**

service in a comfortable, casual atmosphere, and it's no wonder so many locals eat here weekly. The space is decorated with framed photos of dads, most of whom are local—an appreciation of their loyal fan base. Every edible item is a labor of love, just how Dad would make it at home.

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FORTUNE MANDARIN Chinese, Mandarin

1617 Freeway Dr., Mount Vernon
360.428.1819, fortunemandarin.com

Tea warmed over a candle, delicious drinks with a slight exotic twist, tender and flavorful meat, and vegetables cooked to perfection are expected at this peaceful bar and restaurant with Chinese decor. The owner and staff remember regular patrons, creating a sense of community alongside mouth-watering food.

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GREEK ISLANDS RESTAURANT Greek

2001 Commercial Ave., Anacortes
360.293.6911, greekislandsrestaurant.shop

Some of the very best Greek food in our area comes from this versatile and excellent menu, with plenty of vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. They serve both authentic food, such as classic gyro plates and spanakopita, while also mixing in American and seafood options, such as pork ribs and fish and chips.

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THE OYSTER & THISTLE RESTAURANT & PUB Seafood, Steak

205 E. Washington St., La Conner
360.766.6179, theoysterandthistle.com

The Oyster & Thistle Restaurant and Pub takes the time to prepare food with care. Their pastas are handmade and hand-cranked using semolina flour and an egg-rich dough. You'll also find plenty of fresh, expertly shucked oysters and perfectly seared sea scallops.

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RAILROAD PUB & PIZZA Pizza, American

122 S. Spruce St., Burlington
360.982.2133, railroadpizza.com

Railroad Pub & Pizza in downtown Burlington has all the charm of a rustic pub with quality food and drinks. The menu boasts several artisan pizza options on a 24-hour aged malted dough crust, as well as soups, salads, and sandwiches. The bar offers a multitude of taps for craft beer and ciders. The wide garage-style windows open in the summer, and the central fireplace heats the space in the winter. It's a great place to watch a game, drink a beer, and eat some pizza.

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SKAGIT VALLEY'S FARMHOUSE American

13724 Laconner Whitney Rd., Mount Vernon
360.466.4411, thefarmhouserestaurant.net

Craving home-cooked food but don't want to make it yourself? Skagit Valley's Farmhouse may be what you're looking for. When first entering the building, you walk past a mouthwatering pie showcase and through a gift shop that has the perfect items for Ma and Pa. The decor is reminiscent of country living. Even though their breakfasts are famous, try their lunch and dinner menus as well—when you eat here, you're home.

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SWINOMISH SPORTS BAR & GRILL

American

12885 Casino Dr., Anacortes, 888.288.8883,
swinomishcasinoandlodge.com

Located along the waterfront of Anacortes, this is not your run-of-the-mill sports bar. While you can go the more classic bar-food route, this restaurant offers Italian, barbecue, seafood, Southern, among many other cuisine styles. Find the latest lines, watch the race, or grab a beer and grub as you watch every play, pass, and score.

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SAN JUAN

CATKIN CAFÉ American

11 Point Lawrence Rd., Olga, 360.376.3242,
catkincafe.com

The menu of this Orcas Island eatery may be small, but it is mighty. Breakfast and lunch are served late and their menu features meat and produce grown on the island. Don't forget about their bakery before heading out—all sweets and baked goods are made in-house.

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CYNTHIA'S BISTRO American

65 Nichols St., Friday Harbor, 360.298.8130,
cynthiasofcourse.com

Located in a renovated 1920s home, this local San Juan Island staple is known for their innovative menu selections. You can enjoy lunch, or even an extended breakfast, daily in spring and summer. They are famous for their brunch, but you might try stopping by later in the evening for their dinner menu—a special treat.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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SAN JUAN ISLAND BREWING CO.

American

410 A St., Friday Harbor, 360.378.2017,
sanjuanbrew.com

At San Juan Island Brewing Company all the brews are named after San Juan-inspired concepts, and if you can't decide what brew to try, order a sampler. If they weren't in the business of brewing, San Juan Island Brewery would be in the business of pizza. Order one of their wood stone pizzas and you won't be disappointed. The thin crust is crispy on the bottom, but still soft and chewy.

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TOBY'S TAVERN Seafood

8 NW Front St., Coupeville, 360.678.4222,
tobysuds.com

Overlooking the scenic Penn Cove in the center of old Coupeville, Toby's Tavern offers diners a dive bar ambience with a delicious menu of seafood favorites. Steamed and soaked in a scrumptious mix of simple seasonings, wine, and juices, Toby's robust offering of mussels makes for a memorable visit.

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