

Bellingham Alive!

NORTH SOUND LIFE

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BEST OF THE NORTHWEST

2020

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EAT & DRINK

KIDS & PETS

HOME & GARDEN

SERVICES

HEALTH & BEAUTY

ROMANCE & OUTINGS

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.
\$\$ DD

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.
\$\$\$ DDG

THE OYSTER BAR Seafood
2578 Chuckanut Dr., Bow
360.766.6185, theoysterbar.net

The Oyster Bar on Chuckanut Drive is perched among towering conifers above the oyster beds. Housed in a structure dating from the 1920s that has survived many incarnations, the restaurant owes its reputation to its remote, quintessentially Pacific Northwest setting. But people don't dine at The Oyster Bar for its location alone. While oysters are the signature offering, The Oyster Bar offers a variety of other fine-dining choices and is known for its extensive wine cellar.
\$\$\$ DDGY

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.
\$\$ DDGTY

THE RHODY CAFE American
5521 Chuckanut Dr., Bow
360.766.6667, rhodycafe.com

The Rhody Cafe is a spot with a cozy, home-style feel that places emphasis on fresh, local Washington ingredients. Even the pew-like benches that line the walls were built by a local carpenter. Small glass vases hold fresh-picked

flowers and plants that sit next to small paper dessert menus on pressed wood tables, giving the air of a family dining room. The Rhododendron changes its menu three times a year to follow what is fresh, in season, and available.
\$\$\$ DDG

SALT & VINE French
913 6th St., Anacortes
360.293.2222

An international cheese, wine, and charcuterie shop, Salt & Vine offers the best of both worlds. It's a boutique artisan grocery where you can sit down and enjoy the offerings, and then, if something tickles your fancy, you can take it home to enjoy later. While some choose to grab-n-go, others decide to stay a while. The cozy, intimate environment works great for a date night or happy hour with friends.
\$\$ DDG

SKAGIT RIVER BREWERY American
404 S. 3rd St., Mount Vernon
360.336.2884, skagitbrew.com

Made with Yakima Valley hops and Northwest barley and wheat, Skagit River Brewery produces the finest beers with distinguishable tastes. Seasonal beers also appear on the menu for locals to try something new. To complement the beers and non-alcoholic drinks, the brewery also prides itself on its selection of foods from wood-fired pizza to house-smoked ribs. Beer brings people together. At least it's proven so at Skagit River Brewery.
\$\$\$ DDGPGY

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.
\$\$\$ DDGPGG

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.
\$\$\$ DDGY

THIRD STREET CAFE Pacific Northwest
309 S. 3rd St., Mount Vernon
360.542.5022, csquare.coop

Third Street Cafe stands out from the many other restaurants serving locally procured, organic dishes. The menu offers a range of dishes from simple to fancier options. Burgers and fried oysters are listed alongside pork belly lollipops and roasted beer salad.
\$\$ DDGPG

TRUMPETER PUBLIC HOUSE Gastropub
416 Myrtle St., Mount Vernon
360.588.4515, trumpeterpublichouse.com

Trumpeter is an ideal combination of high-end, fine dining, and English pub fare. Try traditional pub selections or more unique seafood choices. Additionally, Trumpeter looks to accommodate all tastes with gluten-free dishes and the option to make any dish gluten-free. Of course, a pub isn't complete without beer and Trumpeter completes the dining experience with 18 taps of local and European brews.
\$\$ DDGPGG

ISLAND COUNTIES

CATKIN CAFE 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.
\$\$ DDGPGG

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.
\$\$ DDGPG

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.

\$\$\$ **B R I D G E**

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.

\$\$\$\$ **D C**

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.

\$ **B D F**

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.

\$\$ **B D F T G**

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.

\$\$ **B D C**



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THANK YOU BELLINGHAM

IT'S BEEN QUITE THE YEAR AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL AND HUMBLED TO HAVE HAD YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT IT ALL. WE LOVE OUR BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY!

AND THANKS FOR VOTING US BEST OF THE NORTHWEST!