



northforker

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EAT • DRINK • LIVE • BREATHE

best  
of the  
north  
fork

2023

# best of the north fork eat



## Best Italian TOUCH OF VENICE

It can be difficult to give visiting friends and family a shortlist when it comes to dinner recommendations for the North Fork, but Touch of Venice always makes the cut. You can expect an amazing meal, good wine, and top-notch hospitality every visit!

- CERRIA TORRES

## BEST ICE CREAM & FROZEN TREATS

**8 Hands Farm**  
Cutchogue

**Dos Ositos Paletas**  
North Fork

**Magic Fountain Ice Cream**  
Mattituck

**Snowflake Ice Cream Shoppe**  
Riverhead

**Star Confectionery**  
Riverhead

## BEST APPLE CIDER DONUTS

**Breeze Hill Farm & Preserve**  
Peconic

**Hallock Cider Mill**  
Laurel

**Harbes Family Farm**  
Mattituck

**Woodside Orchards**  
Aquebogue

**Wickham's Fruit Farm**  
Cutchogue

## BEST SWEETS & TREATS

**Ali Katz Kitchen**  
Mattituck

**Disset Chocolate**  
Cutchogue

**North Fork Chocolate Company**  
Mattituck & Riverhead

**North Fork Doughnut Company**  
Mattituck

**The Treatory**  
Jamesport

## BEST BURGER

**Barrow Food House**  
Aquebogue

**Cliff's Rendezvous**  
Riverhead

**Ellen's on Front**  
Greenport

**First and South**  
Greenport

**The North Fork Shack**  
Southold

## BEST GOURMET PIZZA

**1943 Pizza Bar**  
Greenport

**A Mano**  
Mattituck

**Grana Trattoria Antica & Enoteca**  
Jamesport

**Little Oak at Jamesport Vineyards**  
Jamesport

**Lombardi's Love Lane Market**  
Mattituck

## Best Mexican & Latin Food LUCIA

Lucia in Mattituck is a must-visit for Latin food lovers on the North Fork. This hidden gem offers a range of fresh and authentic dishes, many of which are

influenced by El Salvador. With weekly deals on pupusas, quesadillas, and tacos after 4 p.m., it's a great option for dinner and has become a regular spot of mine. My go-to favorites are the bean and cheese pupusas, fried plantains with Salvadoran cream and sweet horchata.

- VICTORIA CARUSO

## BEST LOBSTER ROLL

**Barrow Food House**  
Aquebogue

**Lighthouse Deli & Market**  
Aquebogue

**Love Lane Kitchen**  
Mattituck

**North Fork Table & Inn Food Truck**  
Southold

**Southold Fish Market**  
Southold

## Best Burger BARROW FOOD HOUSE

I'm typically a simple burger girl but Barrow's smash burger is anything but. The crispy crunch and perfectly done burger with their house sauce and fresh brioche bun is something I crave! It's so easy to order too, instead of going to a drive-thru on my way back from Riverhead, I order on the app and of course, add the fries too!

- TINA CONTENTO



## BEST WINGS

**Digger's Ales N' Eats**  
Riverhead

**First and South**  
Greenport

**Jerry & the Mermaid**  
Riverhead

**Legends Restaurant**  
New Suffolk

**Phil's Restaurant**  
Wading River

## BEST CHEF

**CHRIS KAR**  
The Dimon Estate  
Jamesport

**JENNIE WERTZ**  
Ellen's on Front  
Greenport

**LAUREN LOMBARDI**  
Lombardi's Love Lane  
Market  
Mattituck

**NOAH SCHWARTZ**  
Noah's  
Greenport

**ROBBY BEAVER**  
The Frisky Oyster  
Greenport

## BEST PIES

**Briermere Farms**  
Riverhead

**Country View Farm Stand**  
Southold

**Hallock Cider Mill**  
Laurel

**Orient Country Store**  
Orient

**Wickham's Fruit Farm**  
Cutchogue

## BEST MAINSTAY

**Cliff's Elbow Room**  
Jamesport

**Cutchogue Diner**  
Cutchogue

**Hellenic Snack Bar & Restaurant**  
East Marion

**Modern Snack Bar**  
Aquebogue

**Star Confectionery**  
Riverhead

## BEST TAKEOUT SPOT

**Barrow Food House**  
Aquebogue

**Goodfood**  
Mattituck

**Latin Fuzion**  
Southold

**Southold General**  
Southold

**The North Fork Shack**  
Southold



## Best Waterfront Dining TURKUAZ GRILL

With its glowing string lights, white picnic tables, and vine-covered porch, Turkuaz Grill promises its guests a relaxed, intimate evening along the Peconic River. Serving authentic Turkish staples, this family-run restaurant never disappoints — the waitstaff is always warm and welcoming and the dishes are tasty and generously portioned. With baklava on the menu, be sure to save room for dessert! - VICTORIA CARUSO



**JENNIE WERTZ, Ellen's on Front**

Chef Jennie Wertz spent the majority of her childhood on the North Fork with her parents and brother, Andrew. With a lifetime affinity for cooking, Wertz spent her summers working at restaurants on the North Fork, eventually graduating from the International Culinary Center. She has since held senior positions working with highly regarded chefs across New York City, but her dream was always to open a restaurant on the North Fork. In 2021, her dream came true when Wertz and her brother (also now her business partner) opened Ellen's on Front. The pair also own and operate a summer pop-up restaurant at the historic Drossos Motel and mini-golf.

**Q: What coffee place do you have to hit before work and what do you order?**  
**A:** I like Aldo's. I'm pretty plain, I just order coffee with milk but I also love his croissants. Although I'm not a sweets girl, his pastries are incredibly buttery and I love how strong his coffee is.

**Q: Bay or Sound?**

**A:** Neither. I'm not a water person, to be quite honest. But if I had to answer, growing up we would fish with our family on the Sound. So, I guess I like the Sound more because fishing is associated with it.

**Q: Brewery or vineyard?**

**A:** I'm more of a beer drinker gal than a wine gal. I like going to Greenport Harbor Brewing Company in Peconic. I like playing cornhole and the other outdoor games they have there.

**Q: What is the best part about being a chef?**

**A:** I enjoy seeing people and I like to see or hear about their enjoyment of the food I serve. I'm a people-pleaser and thinking being a chef is part of that. If you can cook good food, it's a good vehicle please people.

**Q: What has been the most rewarding moment in your career (so far)?**

**A:** We are a family-oriented restaurant, so

a lot of kids come in and we've encountered a few children that are interested in food that would call themselves "foodies." My brother is typically the one to notice and bring them to me in the kitchen. It's cool to share and teach the experience of being a chef to the younger generations and see their passion so early on.

**Q: What is your go-to ice cream order?**

**A:** Pretty much every Sunday when I was a kid, we would play mini-golf at Drossos in Greenport. And every time I would get the vanilla soft-serve. It's still my favorite.

**Q: In your opinion, what is the best place to grab a burger?**

**A:** Founders Tavern in Southold is my go-to place.

**Q: Where do you go to clear your mind/de-stress?**

**A:** I head to the pickleball court on Peconic Lane.



Chris Kar, The Dimon Estate

**Q: What is your most controversial take on life on the North Fork?**

**A:** I think despite Chapel Lane being shorter than Albertson Lane, the abruptness of the turn onto Chapel makes it not worth taking. And Albertson is a better road for that. It is too short and you always come in hot. Albertson is a much more scenic road anyway.

**Q: What is your No. 1 recommendation for newcomers?**

**A:** Visit the baby goats at Catapano. They're adorable and pick up some goat cheese while you're there.

**Q: How long is your commute?**

**A:** I live in East Marion, so seven minutes.

**CHRIS KAR, The Dimon Estate**

Chris Kar was born and raised in Southold Town. He grew up in the kitchen of his parents' longtime local mainstay, the Jamesport Country Kitchen. Working in

restaurants across the East End and in Colorado, Kar eventually took over as head chef at the Jamesport Manor Inn in 2020. Last year, he finished renovations on a completely reimaged restaurant, now the Dimon Estate.

**Q: What coffee place do you have to hit before work and what do you order?**

**A:** It depends on where I am on any given day. If I need a quick pick-me-up I get a Celsius from Black Sheep Bagels in Jamesport. But, recently I've been obsessed with the cortados from North Fork Roasting Co.

**Q: Summer or fall on the North Fork?**

**A:** Summer. There is just more opportunity for beach days. The fall is nice for like two weeks until you realize how many leaves you have to pick up.

**Q: Bay or Sound?**

**A:** I like the bay. I grew up on the bay so I'm super biased.

**Q: What is the best part about being a chef?**

**A:** My favorite part is experimenting with food. When you finally have that moment — where you taste something and have an "aha moment," that is most satisfying for me. I love to create food that is unique and that I haven't cooked a million times before. New creations excite me.

**Q: What is your go-to ice cream order?**

**A:** I get the cookie monster from Magic Fountain. It makes your mouth blue, but it's delicious. A close second is their s'mores flavor. It reminds me of a bonfire in the summer — but it's ice cream. So a whole nother level.

**Q: Would you rather grow vegetables or flowers in your garden?**

**A:** Vegetables, but flowers are a close second at this point. We have a tremendous amount of them planted around the restaurant this year and I've loved growing them. But tomatoes are my number one. They are my baby plants and taking care of them is a labor of love — but tomatoes are beautiful and come in every color, size and shape. The complexity of different amounts of flavors that you can get from something that is essentially the same plant is absolutely stunning.

**Q: In your opinion, what is the best place to grab a burger?**

**A:** Barrow Food House. I grew up with Kyle, the chef there. We used to go skiing together. His burger is like an ode to Big Mac but with Wagyu beef. It's very elevated.

**Q: Where do you go to clear your mind/de-stress?**

**A:** There's a beach about three blocks away from where I live that I go to on my days off. I'll set up chairs or inflatable tubes and drink a beer.

**Q: What is your most controversial take on life on the North Fork?**

**A:** I don't like when people say we are "Brooklyn" of the East End. Every time I read an article that says that I cringe. I feel like there is a lot of pressure to become that but there is no way of it happening because the people who live here, for the most part, would choose to live here 99 out of 100 times over anywhere else, including Brooklyn.

**Q: How long is your commute?**

**A:** 25 minutes.