



ODDS-ON CHOICES



BLOODSTOCK AGENT BUZZ CHACE

GIAMANO'S
301 Main Street, Bradley Beach, NJ
(732) 775-4275
<http://www.giamanos.com/>

This 'old New Jersey-style restaurant,' serving the Bradley Beach area since 1986, was voted one of the best places to listen to jazz and blues by *Asbury Park Press Reader's Choice of Monmouth County*. The upstairs room, which offers Giamano's full dinner menu, also provides a relaxing atmosphere to enjoy the live entertainment. While the venue's live show schedule--offered from Friday through Sunday--often proves to be a major draw, the menu sparkles in its own right. The kitchen--piloted by executive chefs Steffan Manno and Peter Petagno--is renowned for producing high quality fare, including its version of Chicken Murphy, which, according to Chace, is among the best in the country. As an extension to Giamano's main dining room, the venue offers an outdoor cafe, which was inspired by the beautiful coast of Italy. Patrons can dine under the stars, surrounded by tranquil sounds of the fountain and the fresh fragrant foliage.

BAY AVE. TRATTORIA
122 Bay Avenue, Highlands, NJ
(732) 872-9800
<http://www.bayavetrattoria.com/>

Well known and respected chefs Joe Romanowski and Maggie Lubcke have set up shop in this modest sliver-size storefront trattoria in the waterfront town of the Highlands. Renowned at the Jersey Shore, they only need to be referred to by their first names to set off light bulbs in the minds of devoted foodies. This BYOB resembles the traditional trattorias of Italy with its quaint setting and colorful accents; one begins to feel the love of food and family. Joe's flair for Italian-American cuisine that made him famous is once again available in his daily creations and homemade deserts. Bay Ave Trattoria also offers a complete take-out and catering menu. According to Chace, "The food is excellent and the seafood is always very fresh--it's just unbelievable."



Press Reader's Choice of Monmouth County.
The upstairs room, which offers Giamano's full dinner menu, also



RISTORANTE GIORGIA
102 Ave of Two Rivers, Rumson, NJ
(732) 741-3880

[Ristorante Giorgia on Facebook](#)

[General manager] Frank Panucci, formerly with Angelica's in Sea Bright, NJ, launched his own piece of Italy in nearby Rumson this past June, and early reviews have been favorable. "This place is just unbelievable. The seafood is fresh and the swordfish in the best around. It's great home-style Italian cooking."

MONMOUTH TRACK ANNOUNCER LARRY COLLMUS

Restaurants:

AMY'S OMELETTE HOUSE
444 Ursula Plaza (Ocean Blvd) Long Branch, NJ
(732) 222-1206

<http://www.youramys.com/>

I have breakfast there every morning. The servers there are a great cast of characters, and have become some of my best friends.

ROONEY'S OCEAN CRAB HOUSE
100 Ocean Ave., Long Branch, NJ
(732) 870-1200

www.rooneysocean.com

This is my personal favorite in the area. Located right on the ocean in Long Branch, Rooney's has a great atmosphere, especially on their patio in the summer when the weather conditions are ideal. It's a great place to unwind after the races. Seafood is their specialty, and I've never had anything there I didn't like.

SALT CREEK GRILLE
4 Bingham Ave., Rumson, NJ
(732) 933-9272

www.saltcreekgrille.com

Salt Creek is right on the Navesink River in Rumson. The food is excellent. Try their grille chop, which is a really thick pork chop that's outstanding.

Editor's Note: They also have great happy hour specials, Monday through Friday, 4:30-6 p.m.

Bars:

DIVE! A Coastal Bar
1072 Ocean Ave., Sea Bright, NJ
732-383-8151

<http://www.divecoastalbar.com/>

Dive is a fun spot right in the heart of Sea Bright. They have lots of beers on tap and good food. The bartenders are friendly and the atmosphere is great.

DENNIS DRAZIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE NJ RACING COMMISSION

THE FROMAGERIE
26 Ridge Road, Rumson, NJ
(732) 842-8088

<http://www.fromagerierestaurant.com/>

DORIS & ED'S

348 Shore Drive, Highlands, NJ 07732
(732) 872-1565
<http://dorisandeds.com/>

Both restaurants are classy, have great food and good service. They are run by great people who know how to make their customers feel at home.