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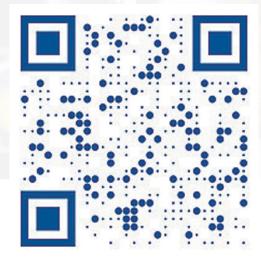
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The Ocean Doesn't Close and Neither Do They!

THE WINDJAMMER: When You're There, You're Really Somewhere

By RONA MANN Special to The Westerly Sun

t's a funny thing about folks who live down here. They love their beaches, they worship the ocean, they can't wait for summer. But the moment there's a chill in the air and it begins to get dark early, they forget all about it. When it's cold out and dark, they stay in, decry the fall and winter, and wait anxiously for summer.

They forget how beautiful and peaceful the beach area is this time of year, matter of fact, it stays this way right into the winter with a tide that doesn't pay attention to the calendar and just never stops coming...and neither should

In a very short time, nothing will be open at the beach...except The Windjammer! They're here all winter long to feed you, create great cocktails for you, and to entertain you with ongoing events and their very famous Weekend Brunch. Yes, The Windjammer Surf Bar is open all year, and they want you to start thinking about coming down for drinks, for dinner, for brunch, and to sit out on their spectacular patio amid real palm trees, gazing at the waves through your glass while you toast the tide, toast the quiet beach, and toast the folks who

are giving it to you all year long.

Remember those igloos the Ocean Community Chamber gave some lucky businesses last year? Well, The Windjammer was one of the lucky ones, and they've still got 'em, so on the coldest of days or nights, you and your party can make a reservation to sit warm and cozy inside an igloo enjoying everything the Windjammer Surf Bar offers in the summer... and if you haven't tried the Windjammer on Saturday or Sunday, you're missing Chef Lenny Malagrino's famous lobster bennies, short rib hash with eggs, plus the most inventive cocktails and craft beers in town.

Now, right now, call The Windjammer and make reservations for a holiday party. They've got a great big party room that can accommodate up to 200 people, and they're ready for your party of ANY size. That means it can be a big company party, a bunch of neighborhood families who want to go out and celebrate with someone else doing the cooking, or just a table of eight taking advantage of their community party nights. The theme this year is to come out, go out, and stay out all fall and winter long at The Windjammer.

The menu? In addition to Johnson & Walestrained Chef Lenny's inventive concoctions that are always special additions, you can recapture the taste of summer with fried seafood: fried calamari, chowders, lobster bisque, fritters, fish and chips, but you can also get a great salad, a tot bowl with pepper jack queso, bacon, and scallions, lobster poutine fries, and whatever else is in the Chef's head that day.

How are you celebrating Halloween this year? Sitting home counting those tiny candy bars, and turning up the heat? Well, The Windjammer is turning up the heat and having a great party with live entertainment on Saturday, October 30th, so make your reserva-

Was your wedding postponed last year due to the pandemic and now you're scurrying around looking for a place? How about a glorious winter wedding by the water at The Windjammer? All catering is done in-house, and you can have that "destination wedding" without ever leaving town!

Family has always meant a great deal to the folks who own The Windjammer. It's been in the Trefes family since 1921 - 100 great years of watching the waves roll in along with good food and drink and hundreds of thousands of people who love a good time any time of year. Have they ever been damaged by weather? "We've been hit by every hurricane since 1938," laughs Charles Trefes, "but we always rebuild, and we're still here."

"Don't forget your well-behaved dogs," Amy Trefes reminds. Dogs are always welcome at The Windjammer where they've even created a Puppy Menu just for the 4-legged buddies who love a good time and good eats as well.

The Windjammer is your go-to place in the winter, so don't forget them in the fall and winter for a great night out, for entertainment every weekend, for special events (check Facebook) like car shows and more. There's always something going on at the only place that's open for you at the beach...so come out, go out, and stay out all winter long at The Windjammer Surf Bar at Misquamicut.

Wondering if you can go somewhere this weekend, next weekend, or any weekend in January or February? You'll find that when you're at The Windjammer, you really are somewhere. The ocean doesn't close and neither do they!

Your place for food and fun is open at 321 Atlantic Avenue. (401) 322-0504 www.windjammersurfbarri.com





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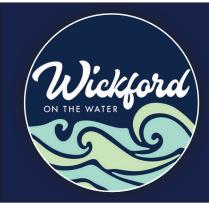
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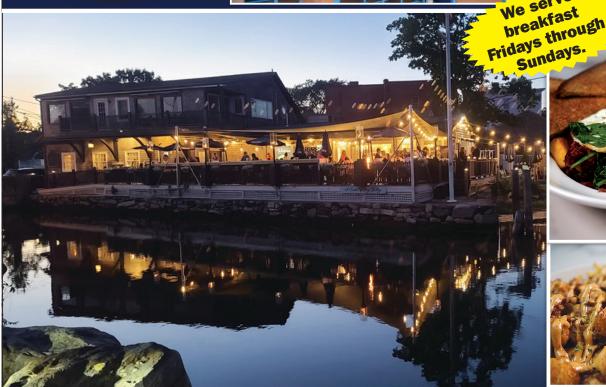




















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He Has to Raise the Bar. . . There's a Motorcycle Over It! WHY DAN'S PLACE IS WORTH THE TRIP

By RONA MANN Special to The Westerly Sun

T'mon all you dyed-in-the-wool Rhode Islanders who don't like to drive even a few miles out of town! Here's a place worth making the short drive. I checked, and it's actually only about a 20 minute drive from Westerly. It's Dan's Place. Sure you've heard of it, but have you ever been there? Once you do, it'll become a habit and one you won't ever want to break because when Dan Hebert got out of the service and opened West Greenwich Town Pizza back in 1996, he decided then and there to raise the bar...and he's been doing it ever since!

His take on making pizza definitely raised the bar and attention was swift. Because he had worked in local restaurants as a teenager and then run a small restaurant himself, he instinctively knew what was the most important element in the hospitality business: people and giving people value for their money and a good time every time they came. So in 2009 he opened Dan's Place, just off I-95 at Exit 5B.

The formula for making Dan's Place a success was simple. Simply good food. Simply great people. And simply one heck of a lot of fun! Will you see a crowd? You bet. Those parking lots fill up quickly, and you might have a short wait, but is it ever worth it. The first thing that will hit you when you look around is the demographic. There are families, couples, seniors, and even solo individuals who stop in for a beverage, a great appetizer, a full meal, or one of their famous signature pizzas. Everyone's comfortable here, and everyone loves the varied menu choices and consistency of each dish.

Did we say "varied menu choices?" There are at present 199 choices and that doesn't include specials! Let's start with17 kinds of wings. Dan's is well known for these babies that are roasted in spices, then fried, then sauced. Everybody's got fried pickle chips on their menus now, but Dan was the first, and he uses nothing but fresh so they come out crispy and delicious. 12 kinds of salads, 12 different half-pound burgers (gluten free rolls and bread always available), 12 sandwiches, 11 kinds of clubs, ribs, BBQ, quesadillas, steaks, chicken, 17 different pasta dishes, 10 ways to eat taters,



16 different apps, and ready for it? 35 signature pizzas! That's 35 not counting the build your own pizzas. So if you like something that's not one of the 35, Dan and his staff will create it according to your wishes. Same for calzones....it's build your own!

That pretty much takes care of the food. There's an exciting beer list, wines, spirits, and a three-quarter length bar with great bartenders, a full assortment of your favorites, and over the bar is a motorcycle! That's right. Every year Dan raffles off a motorcycle to benefit a different charity. This year it was the Rhode Island Special Olympics, but Dan is a terrific community partner, not just a terrific host, so he's always part of whatever's going on.

For those seeking entertainment there's karaoke, DJ trivia, Open Mic nights, and on the weekends there's live entertainment outside on the newly expanded patio with fireplace, plenty of TVs, and all framed by a trellis with hanging plants.

If you're in the North Kingstown area Dan's got yet another place called Dan's Tavern on the Green, a restaurant right on the rolling hills of the North Kingstown Golf Course in the middle of Quonset. It opened three years ago and was an instant hit. While the menu is not as large as the one at Dan's Place, it still

has all your favorites and plenty of variety.

At Dan's Place they may be known for their signature pizzas perfected over 25 years by Dan's himself who is constantly raising the bar, but their real signature is good food, good, times, good prices, and good people. Shouldn't you be one of 'em?

And by the way, when you're at the bar, look up at the next motorcycle to be raffled off for charity. Go ahead, take a chance. Buy a ticket, enjoy a beverage, a meal, the people sitting next to you, and become a regular at Dan's Place where they always raise the bar when it comes to a good time.

Dan's Place is at Exit 5B off I-95 North, opposite the truck stop. (401) 392-3092 www.danspizzaplace.com







WHEN IT JUST HAS TO BE AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD

oberto and Ernesto are keeping it real in Coventry, West Warwick and Smithfield.

When nothing will do but the taste of Mexico, you will never be disappointed at Condesa restaurante mexicano and tequila bar!

Brothers Roberto and Ernesto Leon first opened Condesa restaurante mexicano and tequila bar in Smithfield, RI in 2015 with the help of their mother and late father.

Since opening their first restaurant, they have expanded to open Condesa restaurant mexicano & tequila bar in West Warwick on Quaker Lane.

With the support of their family and great supporting cast from Condesa, they have now ventured out to open Santo Taco Taqueria and Cantina in Coventry! Santo Taco has a real Mexican Street Food feel to it. You will be able to find Mexican classics like pastor, barbacoa and tamales while enjoying a good tequila.

All of their restaurants offer the best authentic Mexican cuisine, which includes tableside guacamole, tacos, burritos, salads, enchiladas, special entrée dishes and appetizers. Hand crafted drinks, including margaritas, are on the menu, and so are vegetarian and gluten free options.

As much as the brothers want to offer what they consider the most authentic Mexican food in the state, they also want to emphasize the rich Mexican heritage that is the basis for their menus.

If one were to draw a Venn Diagram, with the circles representing Mexican Culture, Mexican Culinary Contributions, and Mexican History, the intersection of these spheres would be called Jalisco.

The western Mexican state, whose capital is Guadalajara, is both representative of much of country's history, and also the source of unique culinary and cultural traditions.

It's the brothers' dedication to these traditions and authenticity that sets them apart, and it makes any choice

you make at Condesa or Santo Taco the RIGHT choice.

Their home style, family recipes are made fresh, from scratch in their kitchens.

"The word Authentic is used so often that it has kind of lost its credibility. However- we take pride in our food, our ingredients and our recipes in both our kitchens and bars." Says Roberto.

"We very much believe that we provide the most authentic Mexican food. My brother and I have been in the business for 20 years, starting out in family run Mexican restaurants, and now opening our own. Our parents taught us the value of hard work and work ethics. They taught us well. We bring our love of the Mexican culture, the love of great hospitality, and the love of good food to everything we offer at Condesa, and Santo Taco".

The brothers are very proud of the excellent reviews their food and their teams get, with a 4.5 average on Trip Advisor, and a 4 star average on Yelp, their commitment to providing the best food in the best atmosphere pays off with comments like:

"Easily some of the best Mexican cuisine this side of the border!" (Jesse, from Tiverton, RI)

"The waiters/waitresses we have had are always professional, have a good sense of humor, check in often to be sure all is going well and able to answer menu questions. On each visit, the owner has been on property and made a point to stop by to be sure things were well and say 'thank you' to us as we leave. All the staff seem to say 'bye, thanks for coming' when we leave which gives it a neighborhood restaurant feel." (Jen, from West Warwick)

If all this talk of great food, and fabulous atmosphere have your taste buds longing for traditional Mexican delights, make your way to Santo Taco or Condesa and indulge your culinary desires.

> -Blog post March 2021 www.condesarestaurant.com www.santotacobar.com





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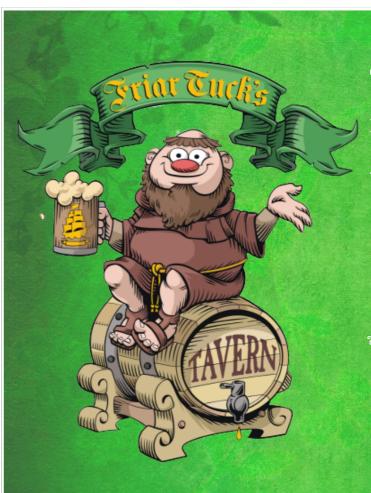


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