



Coast Bar + Bistro: A substantial dinner to ward off the chill

Dining Spotlight

by Karen Schneider
Coastal Journal contributor

BRUNSWICK — I'd been meaning to visit Coast Bar + Bistro at The Daniel Hotel on Water Street and finally made it over there one recent Thursday evening. Luckily for me, I was in time to enjoy the first segment of Double Happy Hour that runs from 3 to 5 p.m. and reconvenes from 8 p.m. to close.

My day was instantly brightened by bartender Chris Leen, who jollied me out of my tepid mood by serving up a glass of the house white and plying me with all the temptations

on the \$5 appetizer menu. It was tough to say no to grilled chicken wings, PEI mussels, and corn fritters with Cajun remoulade, especially when lunch was but a distant memory and the price was so reasonable.

While I enjoyed my nibbles and wine at the bar, I heard there would be live music later, as there is every Thursday and Friday night. Not wanting to miss it, I made up my mind to stay for a while.

It was fun to reminisce about the old days when this historic establishment was known as the Captain Daniel Stone Inn. I fondly recalled birthday dinners, client lunches, professional workshops, wedding receptions, and corporate holiday parties.

It's good to know all that is

still happening in the confines of The Daniel's sleek dining room and well-appointed event spaces that include a ballroom where up to 150 people can party in style. At this time of year, The Daniel also offers mid-week getaways and weekend winterlude packages.

Now part of the Troca Hotels collection and a member of the Stash loyalty reward system that encompasses independent hotels, the focus of The Daniel is comfort, and that includes the food served within. I was geared up to try what is described as "elevated classic comfort food." The trio of appetizers I indulged in on my first visit to The Daniel's Coast Bar + Bistro enticed me to return for another round the following week.

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Contributed photo
Chef Michael Stanford shows off some of the bountiful possibilities at Brunswick's Coast Bistro, located at The Daniel Hotel on 10 Water Street.

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Bistro

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The \$5 Happy Hour menu is a great value, but if you're feeling like splurging a bit more, there's everything from crispy kale chips to cottage fry poutine laced with bacon gravy and cheese curds. There are more traditional starters; just be sure to save room for one of the bistro's entrées.

The menu changes according to the season and what is available locally. I liked that there was a selection of "small plates," always a welcome addition to any menu.

During my visit, grilled lobster crab sausage and pan-seared halibut were offered and I vowed to return for Saturday night prime rib, but on this evening, I sampled a perfectly grilled pork chop served with butternut squash and sautéed greens which was more than satisfying.

When I inquired about any special doings in the offing for Valentine's Day, I was presented with a printed prix fixe menu that made me sit up and take notice.

Especially appealing to me were the seared scallops with orange Champagne vanilla sauce and the lavender lemon crème brûlée. I crave those citrusy flavors during these dark cold months.

It seems that Valentine's Day at The Daniel doesn't have to end with dinner. With an overnight reservation for two on either Friday or Saturday, you and your sweetie can enjoy the prix fixe dinner plus Champagne, a private hot tub and sauna session, and a treat made especially for you by the chef.

When you awaken the following morning, there will be a continental breakfast waiting for you.

After celebrating V Day, perhaps you'll want to return to the bistro for a casual dinner in the midst of your busy week or join friends for a Saturday lunch. There's a variety of signature pizzas, salads, sliders, and sandwiches on the menu that includes my favorite - French Dip.

I'm also intrigued by the "build your own burger" menu where nearly 30 items

are listed for slathering or piling to make your burger uniquely your own.

The bar also gets in on the act when it comes to "building your own" in the form of Bloody Marys served all day on Wednesdays and until 5 p.m. on the weekend.

Starting with the house-made Bloody Mary mix, you then choose everything from the vodka, the rim dusting, and the garnishes. We're not talking about just a celery stick or a lemon wedge here. The choices include bacon, fried mac & cheese, pickled eggs, chicken tenders, even a Slim Jim. The list goes on.

I would think all the possibilities are worth some in-depth research, wouldn't you?



Photo by Karen Schneider

Coast Bistro, located in The Daniel at 10 Water Street is open 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The bar is open every day from 11:30 a.m. to close.

Everyday Double Happy Hour is 3 to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to close. You can listen to live

music from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday nights and from 7 to 10 p.m. every Friday.

For more information, call 373-1824 or visit thedanielhotel.com.

Karen Schneider is a Coastal Journal contributing writer. She can be reached at: iwrite33@comcast.net

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