

DINING

Escape to New Orleans at Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe:

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Mardi Gras is over, but New Orleans is still a nice place to escape to. For those of us who can't just hop on a plane and go, it's a good thing there's Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe.

With locations in Detroit, Southfield and St. Clair Shores, Fishbone's is about as close to New Orleans as you can get in metro Detroit.

It's a place where we like to have fun; it's a restaurant with energy. It's not necessarily a quiet place," said John Furbush, general manager of the Southfield restaurant. He recently moved to the Detroit area from New Orleans. "We're trying to provide a dining experience. I have the music shipped in from New Orleans. Right now you're hearing vintage Louis Armstrong from the 1920s. We try to make it as authentic as possible."

Fishbone's offers plenty of atmosphere, from the lace curtains in the windows to the murals on the wall and potted palms. You'll feel like you stepped into another world. It's easy to get comfortable at one of the tables or booths and forget it's Michigan and below freezing outside.

For those unfamiliar with New Orleans cuisine, Furbush recommends the brunch, where you can try a little bit of this and that. The brunch also offers an omelet station, waffles and other traditional breakfast fare.

"We have a number of stations at brunch — a hot line, desert and salad," he said. "It's an opportunity to go after real New Orleans-style dishes such as deep-fried Cajun turkey, collard greens and candied yams. If you went down South, you'd be in heaven with this type of brunch." The price for brunch is \$16.95 adults, \$8.95 children under age 12, and \$2.95 for children under 2.

Starting with appetizers on the main menu, Furbush recommends New Orleans Bar-B-Que Shrimp served with a spicy but-

Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe
Where: 29244 Northwestern Highway, (just north of 12 Mile Road), Southfield (248) 351-2925, fax (248) 351-2919.
Hours: Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight Friday; noon to midnight Saturday; 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday brunch, 2-10 p.m. regular menu.
Menu: Taste of New Orleans, including Seafood Gumbo, Jambalaya, seafood, steaks, chops and chicken. Salads and sandwiches also available. Some vegetarian items. Ask about the dinner specials.
Cost: Moderate. Sandwiches \$5.95 to \$8.95; Entrees \$9.95 to \$21.95.
Reservations: For parties of six or more.
Credit cards: All majors accepted.
Private parties: Semi-private space available for parties of up to 60 people.
Carry-out: Every item on menu available for carry-out. Also offer "Pans to Go" a carry-out service for groups and parties. All pans feed six to eight people.
Entertainment
■ 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Pamela Wise, piano jazz
■ 5-8 p.m. Thursdays, Henry Gibson, piano jazz
■ 5-8 p.m. Fridays, Harold McKinney, piano jazz; 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Pamela Wise and the Afro-Cuban All Stars, jazz with Afro-Cuban rhythms
■ 5-8 p.m. Saturdays, Harold McKinney, piano jazz; 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Audrey Northington, jazz vocalist
■ 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Janet Tenaj, jazz vocalist
Other locations:
Greentown — 400 Monroe St., International Building, Detroit, (313) 965-4900
St. Clair Shores — 23722 Jefferson St., St. Clair Shores, (810) 498-3000



Cool crustaceans: General manager John Furbush and Executive Chef Faiz Albanna at Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe in Southfield.

are also available. Catfish Beignets and Crab Cakes are other often-requested appetizers. You can also order Crab Cakes as an entree. They're served with a lemon caper dill sauce.

Moving on, you've got to try the Seafood Gumbo, "It's gunnared to warm you up a little bit," said Furbush.

Fishbone's offers a selection of grilled "bronzed" steaks including Filet Mignon, ribeye and Porterhouse. Scallops, catfish, snapper, pork chops, lamb chops and chicken are on the menu, too. Bronzing is Fishbone's

method of blackening food. They use a mild, flavorful blend of spices and herbs.

Crawfish Etouffee is a Fishbone's specialty, along with Shrimp Creole, Zydeco Chicken, Chicken & Sausage Sauce Piquant, and Jambalaya. The Creole Baked Eggplant is a vegetarian eggplant casserole baked with jalapeno jack cheese and marinara sauce.

Fishbone's is known for its Whiskey Ribs served with Dirty Rice and a vegetable. They also offer a variety of fried seafood selections such as shrimp, oysters, scallops, and catfish served

with homemade fries and Charleston Slaw. If you can't make up your mind, try the Combo Momo — a platter of fried shrimp, catfish, crab fingers and oysters.

For lunch, Furbush points to the Po-Boy sandwiches — fried shrimp, catfish, chicken, pork, or fried chicken. Another favorite is the Muffuletta sandwich — layers of Genoa salami, ham, Mortadella and Provolone topped with an olive salad on a large bun. "I'm a big fan, and ours is pretty close to what you'd find in the French Quarter of New Orleans," said Furbush.

If you're hungry for just a salad, Fishbone's aims to please with Galvez Shrimp Salad, Fried Crawfish Salad, Pirate's Alley Olive Salad, and the familiar Caesar, Grilled Chicken, and Greek Salad.

Save room for dessert, made by Fishbone's own pastry chefs — Bourbon Street Bread Pudding, Banana Foster Sundae, Pecan Pie, Key Lime Pie, and Peach Cobbler.

Quench your thirst with a Blackened Voodoo beer. There are a number of bottled beers to choose from, premium wines, and specialty drinks.

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

COWLEY'S OLD VILLAGE INN
33338 Grand River, Farmington. Open 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. Opening 10 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day. From noon to 5 p.m. Blackthorn will be performing; 7 p.m. to close, Perkins & Friends. Serving corned beef and cabbage dinners and Irish stew, Friday-Saturday, March 12-13. Corned beef sandwiches, burger and pizza served on St. Patrick's Day. (248) 474-6941.

DICK O'DOW'S
160 W. Maple, Birmingham. Open 11 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. Monday-Saturday; open noon to 2:30

a.m. Sunday. Will be opening 9 a.m. St. Patrick's Day Breakfast will be available for the early crowd. Serving corned beef sand-

wiches, fish and chips, and other sandwiches throughout the day. Entertainment includes pipers, Odd Enough, Ravensong, Com-

pany of Strangers, and Mo Doyle, call (248) 642-1135.
O'GRADY'S IRISH PUB
585 W. Big Beaver, Troy, (adjac-

cent to the Drury Inn) (248) 524-4770. Open 11-2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; noon to 1 a.m. Sunday. Menu includes corned beef and

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