

DINING

Easter brunch and special dinners

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

Reservations are strongly advised at the following area restaurants for brunch and/or dinner on Easter Sunday, April 4.

Big Rock Chop & Brew House — 245 S. Eton Street, Birmingham (248) 647-7774. Brunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adults \$24.95; children \$11.95, under 5 free. Dinner 3-9 p.m. from regular menu averaging \$16-30.

Cafe Cortina — 30715 West 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-3033. Seatings at 2, 4:30 and 7 p.m. Adult average menu price \$24; no kid's menu, but kitchen staff will accommodate.

Charley's Crab — 5498 Crooks Road, Troy, next to Northfield Hilton, (248) 879-2060, 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. regular menu with specials. Adult average price \$18; children \$5.

Duet — 3663 Woodward Avenue (at Mack), Detroit (313) 831-DUET. Dinner noon-8 p.m. from regular menu with Easter specials \$16-34.

Ernesto's — 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-2002. Brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. followed by dinner until 6 p.m. Adult brunch \$18.95, children ages 6-12 \$8.95, under age 5 free. Adult dinner \$20.95.

Excalibur — 28875 Franklin Road, Southfield (southwest corner of 12 Mile Road and Northwestern Highway, (248) 358-3356. Brunch buffet 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults \$22.60; children ages 7-12 \$13.95, under age 7 free. Dinner 3-8 p.m. with Easter specials, \$26 average full menu price.

Fox & Hounds — 1560 North Woodward, Bloomfield Hills (248) 644-4800. Brunch 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Adults \$16.95; children \$7.95, under 5 free. Dinner 3-8 p.m. Adults \$19-24 and children \$7.95.

Fusion — 34555 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, between Farmington and Drake Roads (248) 489-8852. Brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults \$24.95; children under 12 \$9.95, under 3 free. Dinner 4-9 p.m. from regular menu with Easter specials \$10 average.

Mac & Ray's — 42000 Sea Ray Boulevard, Harrison Township, Off I-94 take the North River Road Exit #237 (810) 463-9660. Brunch 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Adults \$24.95, children 6-12 years \$13.95, under 5 free.

Mackinnon's — 126 E. Main, Northville, (248) 348-1991. Dinner 1-6 p.m. from special holiday menu \$18-26 average.

Morels, A Michigan Bistro — 30100 Telegraph, Bingham Farms (248) 642-1094. Brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults \$24.95; children under 12 \$9.95, under 3 free.

Mortons of Chicago, The Steakhouse — 1 Town Square, Southfield (248) 354-6006. Dinner 4-10 p.m. from a la carte regular menu featuring USDA Prime aged beef. Average entree price \$25-30.

Northern Lakes Seafood Company — 1475 N. Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 646-7000. Brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults \$24.95; children under 12 \$9.95, under 3 free. Dinner 4-9 p.m. from regular menu with Easter specials \$15-30 average.

No. VI Chophouse and Lobster Bar — 27790 Novi Road (in The Hotel Baronette), Novi (248) 305-5210. Brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults \$24.95; children under 12 \$9.95, under 3 free. Dinner 4-9 p.m. from regular menu with Easter specials \$20-30 average.

Paint Creek Cider Mill Restaurant — 4480 Orion Road, 3 miles north of downtown Rochester (248) 651-8361. Brunch 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Adults \$17.95; children \$7.95, under 5 free.

The Townsend Hotel — 100 Townsend Street, Birmingham, (248) 642-5999. Registry Room Buffet Brunch 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. seatings. Adults \$45; children 4-12 \$22, under 3 free. Rugby Grille 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. seatings for a la carte specialties ranging \$19-32.



Relaxing surroundings: Charley's Crab in Troy is just one of the many metro Detroit area restaurants offering special Easter menus.

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (248) 691-7279, or e-mail kwygonik@oc.homedm.net

FIVE LAKES GRILL
Monday, March 29, 7 p.m. Chimayo Dinner at Five Lakes Grill 424 N. Main Street, Milford (248) 694-7455. In celebration of the memory of Chef Brian Polcyn's southwest concept restaurant Chimayo in Pontiac, he invites all its past fans to this dinner. Six courses \$38.50 plus tax and gratuity. Beverage package extra at \$28 per person plus tax and gratuity.

PIKE STREET
Chalone wines from California and Australia accompany a wine dinner 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 29. Five course meal features stuffed portabella mushroom with golden poulet sauce, lobster consommé, Cyprus salad, Mosaic of tenderloin a la banchot and Swan on a Pond pastry puff dessert. Reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$75 per person, includes food and wine, but not tax or gratuity. Pike Street is at 18 Pike Street, downtown Pontiac. Call (248) 334-7878 for reservations/information.

Jimmy Schmidt, Chef/owner of the Rattlesnake Club in Detroit was chosen by Gourmet magazine to bring his Midwestern cuisine to New York. On March 24-26, Schmidt will cook at the Halcyon Restaurant, 161 West 54th Street as part of Gourmet's Great American Chefs at Halcyon series. The author of several cookbooks, Schmidt also owns Jimmy's in Gross Pointe Farms, Smith's in downtown Rochester, Chianti Tuscan Grill in Southfield, and Jimmy's Double A Bar and Grill in Ann Arbor.

GREAT HARVEST BREAD COMPANY
Baking Honey Bunies — bunny shaped loaves of whole wheat bread. Visit Great Harvest Bread Company, 1137 South Adams (at Lincoln) Birmingham, (248) 433-1833. Hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 7 a.m. until the bread runs out on Saturdays.

BIG ROCK CHOP & BREW HOUSE
Executive Chef Randy Smith recently graduated from the Foley School of Fish in Boston. During the three-day seminar, accredited by the American Culinary Federation, Smith and 11 other restaurateurs from across the country, received intensive lessons on the finer points of handling and preparing fresh seafood. According to Smith, who has been executive chef at Big Rock Chop & Brew House for the past 18 months, the guests have a healthy seafood appetite with favorites ranging from Potato Encrusted Salmon with Mustard Leek Sauce to Shrimp and Crab Cakes. Smith is hoping to introduce some new dishes including Georges Bank Sea Scallops based on his tastings at the seminar.

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