

30 Best Bargains / 70 Local Secrets

2010 TRAVEL GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND • A SPECIAL ISSUE

Waterfront Dining:
Our Top 50 Picks (p. 48)

120 Top Events
for Everyone

Treasure Hunting
at Brimfield (p. 32)

YANKEE

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(p. 166)

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Plus! 16 Great Ways to
Hang Out by the Water (p. 76)

METRO BOSTON & CAMBRIDGE

FOOD/DRINK

BEST PUB

MATT MURPHY'S, Brookline

A no-frills, friendly spot straight out of an urban Dublin neighborhood. The cheese platter with soda bread is a meal in itself; and the fish-and-chips comes with spicy ketchup and pickled onions—all of it wrapped in newspaper. Entrées: from \$12. 14 Harvard St. 617-232-0188; mattmurphyspub.com

BEST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

L'ESPALIER, Boston

After years of enchanting couples in a snug Victorian townhouse, L'Espalier is now settled into its shiny new digs next to the Mandarin Oriental hotel. Adding sophistication hasn't taken away the intimacy, however. The food (New England meets France) and service are just as classic and cossetting as ever. Entrées: from \$25. 774 Boylston St. 617-262-3023, lespalier.com

BEST SEAFOOD

B&G OYSTERS LTD., Boston

This sophisticated South End eatery, with its wonderful marble bar and high-top tables crowded with plates of Nantucket bay scallops crudo and moules frites, is a gleaming ode to traditional Boston seafood dishes, taken up a notch. Entrées: from \$25. 550 Tremont St., 617-423-0550; bandgoysters.com

BEST SUSHI

OISHII, Boston

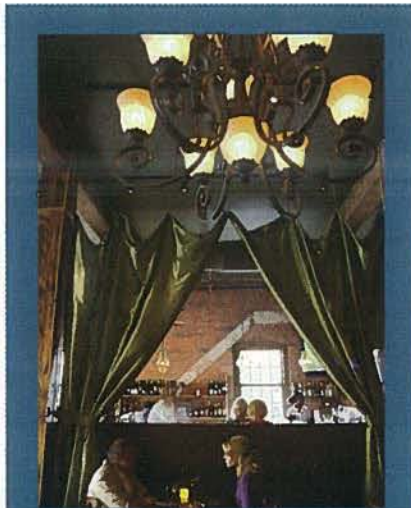
The dining room is a beautiful palace of tranquility—as cleanly styled as the food is cleanly flavored. Entrées: from \$22. 1166 Washington St. 617-482-8868; oishiiboston.com

LODGING

BEST ON-THE-WATER B&B

GREEN TURTLE, Charlestown

Set in the historic Charlestown Navy Yard, the Green Turtle makes its home on a pier that extends right out into Boston Harbor—which means tugboats chugging by and, of course, that



BEST NEW RESTAURANT

IL CASALE, Belmont

With brothers Damian and Filippo and father Leon, chef Dante de Magistris has converted an old fire station into a high-ceilinged space that's rustic but still refined. The food follows suit: intensely flavored mozzarella-stuffed pork meatballs and wallet-friendly tasting menus. Entrées: from \$17.

50 Leonard St. 617-209-1942; ilcasalebelmont.com

magnificent Boston city skyline. Want a little piece of the urban life? Hop on the water taxi that comes straight to your door. Rates: from \$245, including continental breakfast. Shipyard Quarters Marina, 13th St. 617-337-0202; greenturtlebb.com

BEST ROOM WITH A VIEW

THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, Boston

The most swoon-worthy thing about the rooms

at this waterfront high-rise are the breathtaking views that nearly every room rolls out—whether it's one peering over the harbor or across the city. Rates: from \$260. 510 Atlantic Ave. 617-747-1000; intercontinentalboston.com

BEST BOUTIQUE LODGING

THE LIBERTY HOTEL, Boston

Some hotels are historic, others are hip. Rarely do the twain meet. Not so at The Liberty, a restored jailhouse that tastefully highlights the architecture of its former incarnation. Layered balconies look down to a sweeping lobby (where champagne is poured at check-in), while the spacious rooms and suites are decked out with amenities and subtly chic accessories. Rates: from \$280. 215 Charles St. 617-224-4000; libertyhotel.com

BEST CITY LODGING

CHARLES STREET INN, Boston

Few things can match the mix of charm, romance, and elegance of Charles Street, but this jewel box of an inn has been doing just that since it opened 10 years ago. This nine-room townhouse melds luxury (Frette linens, marble fireplaces, garden views) with history (the house was a Brahmin fixture built in 1860). The meticulous staff goes beyond the call of duty to accommodate requests. Rates: from \$250, including full breakfast. 94 Charles St. 877-772-8900, 617-314-8900; charlesstreetinn.com

ATTRACTIONS

BEST MOVIE THEATER

KENDALL SQUARE CINEMA, Cambridge

There is life beyond the megaplex, and here it is: a smart mixture of classics, foreign, and independent films. Perks include fresh pastries and coffee, plus inexpensive parking. 1 Kendall Square. 617-499-1996; landmarktheatres.com

BEST TOY STORE

HENRY BEAR'S PARK, Brookline, Cambridge, Arlington

Books for all ages, retro and wooden toys, hard-to-find gems such as Calico Critters, and plenty of play space and unpackaged toys so that tykes