



## Pie in the Sky

Sweet or savory, pies rule in Rockland, Maine.

by CAROL CAMBO  
photography JULIE BIDWELL

WITH SPINDLED PORCH AND CLARET-colored clapboards, The Berry Manor Inn of Rockland, Maine, is a Victorian gem. You'd never guess this genteel getaway is also home to a family pie feud.

The inn's owners, Cheryl Michaelsen and Michael LaPosta, ask their mothers to make pies for inn guests. Cheryl's mom swears by Crisco—no butter, no



The Berry Manor Inn was a private home for 100 years until the present innkeepers bought it. Now 12 spacious guest rooms are open to visitors in this stately house.

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Cheryl Michaelsen (left) and her mother-in-law, Janet LaPosta, admire the fruits of their labor at The Berry Manor Inn.

way—and rolls out her thin, flaky crusts on a well-floured board. Mike's mom uses Crisco, butter, and a pinch of sugar for her thick, crumbly crusts. She works on chilled marble. "In the end, we all win," says Cheryl.

Pie is served daily at Berry Manor. The complimentary evening treat is often mentioned in guest-book comments. Cheryl keeps track, baking guests' favorite flavors upon their return. But the pies baked today—yards of golden dough blanketing sweet lumps of cherries, apples, raspberries, and rhubarb—are special. They are part of a pie tour of Rockland's historic inns, in honor of National Pie Day (January 23). Cheryl also offers breakfast pies filled with veggies and herbs. They are crustless—perhaps a diplomatic concession to keep the family peace.

The first pie of the day consumed, visitors head outside into the snow to sample the competition. The first stop is Waterman House and Gardens, a sunny bed-and-breakfast around the corner from Berry Manor.

A good way to work off pie calories is to stroll the galleries of Rockland's Farnsworth Museum. Here is the state's most comprehensive gathering of American art—historic and contemporary—related to Maine. Among its most significant collections are works by members of the Wyeth family. Three generations of talent include N. C. Wyeth, an illustrator by trade, who bought the family's first property in Maine in 1920; his youngest son, Andrew; and Andrew's son Jamie. 16 Museum St.; 207-596-6457. [farnsworthmuseum.org](http://farnsworthmuseum.org)



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Mother and daughter Judy and Melissa Waterman tempt visitors with a wonderful mincemeat pie. They also offer their signature seafood pie along with delicious fresh-brewed tea served in delicate china cups.

LimeRock Inn sits a few blocks away. It was the first inn to open in the town's Historic District, in 1994. Owners P. J. Walter and Frank Isganitis serve visitors Frank's pizza rustica—a dense, layered pork and cheese pie that melts in the mouth—as well as P. J.'s special raspberry tart, accompanied by the inn's own blend of Rock City Coffee Roasters coffee.

In the Captain Lindsey House's wood-paneled Scottish breakfast nook, co-owner Ken Barnes (with wife, Ellen) fashions a long-stemmed rose from dough to adorn a crust. As visitors watch his demonstration, they lift forkfuls of rustic apple and kiwi-berry tarts.

The last stop is Lakeshore Inn, overlooking frozen Lake Chickawaukie (also known as Chickawaukie Pond). Co-owner Pat Masson (with husband, Jim) bakes apple pies inside paper bags to produce her

Rockland's handsome historic buildings house many bookshops, restaurants, and boutiques. A popular store is the Black Parrot (above) with its distinctive sweaters, scarves, gloves, mittens, and hats (not to mention dresses, pants, tops, jackets, tights, purses, shoes, and more) in a rainbow of colors and textures. 328 Main St.; 207-593-9370. [blackparrotonline.com](http://blackparrotonline.com)

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### Pies on Parade

Rockland's Pies on Parade tour is scheduled for January 22; tickets are \$10. The innkeepers make a wide selection of sweet and savory dishes, so it's much like a progressive lunch. A complimentary tour cookbook, *Let Us Eat Pie*, is loaded with recipes, baking tips, history, and fun facts. For information or to reserve a spot on the tour, contact the Historic Inns of Rockland (877-762-4667; [historicinnsofrockland.com](http://historicinnsofrockland.com)) or any of the inns on the tour (below). Special lodging packages are available.

**The Berry Manor Inn**, 81 Talbot Ave. 800-774-5692, 207-596-7696. [berrymanorinn.com](http://berrymanorinn.com)

**Waterman House and Gardens**, 33 Grove St. 207-596-0093. [watermanhouse.com](http://watermanhouse.com)

**LimeRock Inn**, 96 Limerock St. 800-546-3762, 207-594-2257. [limerockinn.com](http://limerockinn.com)

**Captain Lindsey House**, 5 Lindsey St. 800-523-2145, 207-596-7950. [lindseyhouse.com](http://lindseyhouse.com)

**Lakeshore Inn**, 184 Lakeview Dr. 207-594-4209. [lakeshorebb.com](http://lakeshorebb.com)



The renaissance that Rockland is enjoying has attracted plenty of new eateries. In Good Company (above) is a wine bar that serves tasty cheeses imported from around the world, including many from Scotland and England. Also on the menu are creative appetizers such as baby clams steamed with fennel, grape tomatoes, and Riesling wine; salads; dinner entrées; and myriad wines by the glass and bottle. 415 Main St.; 207-593-9110.

delicate, flavor-saturated crusts. She also offers chocolate-chip pie—a real hit with the kids.

A few words about Rockland: This harbor town has nobly weathered the tides of fortune over the past 237 years. Its Main Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its collection of Italianate, Greek and Colonial Revival, and mansard-roofed Victorian architecture. Nowadays these handsome buildings house galleries, boutiques, coffee and book nooks, and hip eateries.

The waterfront, protected by a mile-long granite breakwater, is still a working harbor, a mix of piers and parks, home to half of the Maine Windjammer fleet. In summer, visitors watch lobstermen unload their daily catch while boaters skirt the rocky shore and the lighthouse. In winter, indoor activities—dining, shopping, and gallery-hopping—offer just as much fun. The town is at once quaint, hip, and—especially around National Pie Day—simply delicious. ★



A picture-perfect kiwi-berry pie from the Captain Lindsey House is one of dozens of treats offered during Rockland's pie tour.

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