

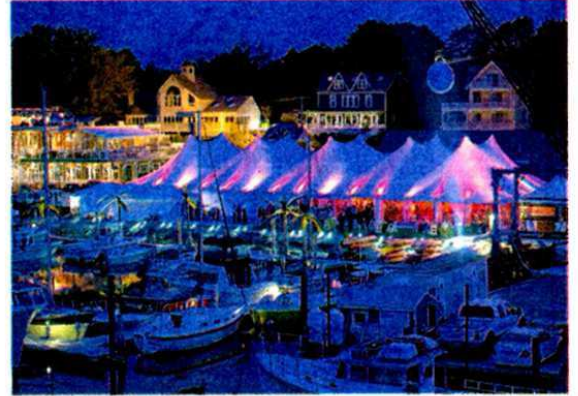
# ROADTRIP

real people, real fun



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# MAINE *a la carte*

*Kennebunkport Festival offers a full menu of food, music and art*



If your definition of Maine pretty much begins and ends with whoopie pies and lobster, Kennebunkport would like to have a word with you.

Some of the finest chefs, vintners and artists in New England call the Pine Tree State home, and many of their works and wares will be on display at the 10th annual Kennebunkport Festival — an annual celebration of the best food, wine and art the state has to offer. The festival is just weeks away, and this

seaside town has a full agenda and hotel deals to bring road-trippers into the celebration.

Located about 90 minutes north of Boston, the town will roll out the red carpet from June 3 to 8, when nightly cocktail receptions, gourmet dinners, a tasting event, an outdoor concert and art shows fill Kennebunkport's streets with food, wine and art lovers from across the country.

One of the best-known elements of the Kennebunkport Festival is a series of dinners whipped up by some of Maine's most talented chefs and served in stately private homes. The Art of Dining is the ticket to get, and though several of the dinners are sold out, there are others with tickets available. Tickets remain for the June 3

event at the Leonardi Residence with Josh Hixson, chef/owner of 40 Paper and 3Crow in Maine's midcoast; and for the June 4 events at the Parker Residence with chef Christopher Godfrey of the Roost Cafe and Bistro, at the Clarke residence with chef Chad Conley of Gather Restaurant and Greg Mitchell and at the Chappell Residence with chef Jason Paul of the Gothic Restaurant in Belfast, among others. Tickets for each event are \$150. (To book tickets for any of the festival events, go to [kennebunkportfestival.com/tickets](http://kennebunkportfestival.com/tickets).)

Pop the Kennebunks brings in the Cellardoor Winery (47

West St., Rockport, Maine) to host a party pairing wine and food with some live music. This June 5 soiree will feature gourmet, savory treats by the Kitchen Chicks (41 Water St., Kennebunk) and music by the Austin, Texas-based Matchmaker Band. It takes place at the Pilot House Boatyard (4 Western Ave., Kennebunk) under a 10,000-square-foot tent along the Kennebunkport River. Tickets are \$100. Two nights later, on June 7, visitors can indulge in a wide range of tastes at the Grand Tapas Party under the same waterfront tent. The party will offer food inspired by eight countries.

**CELEBRATION:** Kennebunkport, below, offers visitors fine hotels like the Grand Hotel, meals by Maine's top chefs and a fun evening of food and music at Pop the Kennebunks, top from left.





**FEAST AT FEST: Kennebunkport diners take part in the Art of Dining event. The Kennebunkport Inn, below, is one of the hotels offering special package deals.**

Tickets are \$65.

A new event has just been added to the festival — an evening of fine dining in a rustic barn at Lautholm Farm (342 Lautholm Farm Road, Wells). Four award-winning chefs will each create a course around the theme “wood-fired food” from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on June 6. Tickets are \$250.

For a more casual night out, try the Brews and Tunes on the Green at the Captain Lord Mansion (6 Pleasant St., Kennebunkport) on June 7. The mansion is a AAA four-diamond bed-and-breakfast run by Bev Davis and Rick Litchfield, who are celebrating 36 years as innkeepers. A beer garden will take care of the brews, and renowned Portland musician Spencer Albee — onetime member of Rustic Overtones — will bring the tunes. Authentic Maine fare — we can guess this is where we’ll see those lobsters and whoopie pies — will be served. Tickets are \$15.

The Captain Lord Mansion is also hosting a Taste of Maine Garden Party on June 7 during the festival. The party is complimentary and open to guests staying at one of four historic inns — the 1802 House, the Captain Jefferds Inn, the Captain Lord Mansion or the Maine Stay Inn and Cottages. Chefs from the four inns will create tastes highlighting the best of Vacationland, and samples of Maine wines, specialty snacks and hors d’oeuvres will be offered. (To book, call 800-522-3141 or go to [captainlord.com](http://captainlord.com).)

## Where to stay

There are plenty of hotel, inn and resort options along the Maine coast, but one of the best ways to get the most bang for your buck might be to consider a Kennebunkport Festival Dine, Dance and Stay package.

Put together by the Kennebunkport Resort Collection, this deal provides guests with accommodations for three nights at one of four boutique hotels and a pile of extras, including two tickets each to Pop the Kennebunks, the Grand Tapas Party, Brews and Tunes, Art Works opening reception, the Grand Finale at David’s KPT, a large customized Festival sea bag and an unframed Kennebunkport Festival Poster — all adding up to a \$740 value.

Prices vary depending on hotel choice. The Grand Hotel (1 Chase Hill, Kennebunkport), a new downtown spot with an on-site gourmet food shop and art gallery, is

\$1,110 or \$555 per person; The Kennebunkport Inn (1 Dock Square, Kennebunkport), a romantic and classic New England style hotel with a porch overlooking the Kennebunk River, is \$1,048 or \$524 per person; The Boathouse Waterfront Hotel (1 Ocean Ave., Kennebunkport), with panoramic views above the Kennebunk River over the new 200-seat restaurant, David’s Kennebunkport, is \$1,125 or \$563 per person; Lodge on the Cove (29 South Main St., Kennebunkport), a family-friendly resort with its own restaurant and tiki bar, is \$1,080 or \$540 per person. (To book, call 800-573-7186 or go to [kennebunkportresortcollection.com](http://kennebunkportresortcollection.com).)

## If you go

Kennebunkport is a 90 minute drive north of Boston. Take Interstate 95 north through the tolls in York and onto the Maine Turnpike. Drive 10 miles past the tolls and take Exit 19 onto Route 1 north and watch for signs taking you onto Route 9. Bonus: You’ll pass the Maine Diner. To book tickets for any festival events, go to [kennebunkportfestival.com/tickets](http://kennebunkportfestival.com/tickets).

— [bill.burke@comcast.net](mailto:bill.burke@comcast.net)

