

BEST FRIED CHICKEN

MARCONI BEACH BBQ & SEAFOOD, *South Wellfleet*

You can get shellfish in lots of places, but it's harder to find good Southern-style fried chicken on the Outer Cape. The takeout dinner of wing, breast, thigh, and leg, with coleslaw, potato, barbecued beans, and garlic toast, is just the ticket for a beach picnic. Fried-chicken dinner: \$15.99. Other entrées: from \$16.99. 545 Route 6. 508-349-6025; marconibeachrestaurant.net

BEST OVERSTUFFED SANDWICHES

THE BLACK SHEEP, Amherst

Why are the best deli sandwiches always in college towns? The Black Sheep is Amherst's go-to shop for cookies and sweets, but the real prize goes to the massively filled sandwiches of mildly inventive combos, such as the TNT of roast turkey, portobellos, roasted peppers, and olive tapenade. Half sandwiches: from \$3.95. Full sandwiches: from \$7.50. 79 Main St. 413-253-3442; blacksheepdeli.com

BEST FRENCH PASTRIES

FRENCH MEMORIES, Duxbury

No one handles puff pastry, gooey white pastry

cream, picture-perfect fruit, and rich chocolate quite like a French pastry chef. One taste of the "Paris-Brest" pâté-à-choux or a square of caramel-chocolate mousse "Diva" cake will have you speaking in tongues—French, to be exact. Pieces: from \$3. 459 Washington St. 781-934-9020; frenchmemories.com

BEST COLONIAL DINING

SALEM CROSS INN, West Brookfield

Restored to its 17th- and 18th-century origins, this crossroads tavern and restaurant, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, even prepares an outdoor colonial-spit roast beef (the "Drover's Roast") a couple of times each summer. Yankee classics such as baked haddock and broiled scallops are always on the menu. Entrées: from \$16. 260 West Main St. 508-867-2345; sailemcrossinn.com

BEST CHINESE MASTER CHEF

CK' SHANGHAI, Wellesley

Hong Kong-trained C. K. Sau may offer the usual long list of traditional dishes, but wise diners stick to the house specialties for bold cookery with subtle textures and spicing. The duck dishes and Shanghai-style plates, especially, would please even a discerning emperor.