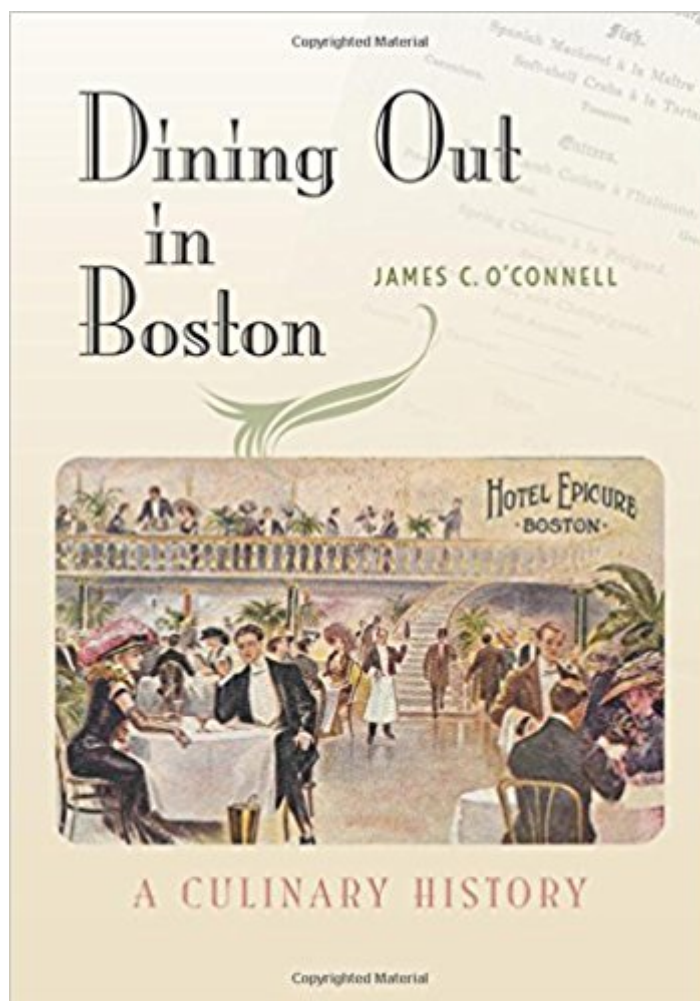


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Dining Out In Boston: A Culinary History



Synopsis

Over the years, Boston has been one of America's leading laboratories of urban culture, including restaurants, and Boston history provides valuable insights into American food ways. James C. O'Connell, in this fascinating look at more than two centuries of culinary trends in Boston restaurants, presents a rich and hitherto unexplored side to the city's past. Dining Out in Boston shows that the city was a pioneer in elaborate hotel dining, oyster houses, French cuisine, student hangouts, ice cream parlors, the twentieth-century revival of traditional New England dishes, and contemporary locavore and trendy foodie culture. In these stories of the most-beloved Boston restaurants of yesterday and today illustrated with an extensive collection of historic menus, postcards, and photos O'Connell reveals a unique history sure to whet the intellectual and nostalgic appetite of Bostonians and restaurant-goers the world over.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Although it specifically features Boston, the work does have a broader theme that shows the changes that took place within the restaurant industry as the US grew. At the same time, the study is informative regarding Americans' appetites and their evolving desire to leave the hot kitchen. . . . Recommended. • Choice

JAMES C. O'CONNELL is an urban historian and urban planner and the author of

numerous books, including *Becoming Cape Cod* and *The Hub of the Universe's Metropolis*.

O'Connell has a level of expertise you rarely get in a book about food. This is a person deeply steeped in the meaning of place, the meaning of landscape, the history of a distinctive part of America. A masterpiece.

Learn things you never knew! Feel frustrated when you don't read more about the things you hoped to find! Consider writing that book yourself (Jewish delis of Boston?).

A delicious book that captures the dining experience in Boston throughout the centuries. Love the photos and old menus. So fun to read.

This is a fascinating story of Boston's long history of establishing itself as a culinary capital. We learn that fancy dining in the early nineteenth century restaurants could only be found in hotels. French cuisine provided the model for all aspects of dining. I was especially intrigued by little known facts such as waiters in the nineteenth century were thought of as no better than lowly servants. Hopefully that has evolved! We learn how the cuisine has changed over the decades. In the nineteenth century there were oysters everywhere, and fabulous dining that featured an amazing variety of game. What happened to all those birds? The variety of restaurants has grown, too. We see women given an opportunity to eat out when tearooms and ice cream parlors become popular. This is when you could finally order a sandwich, too. I remember the old country inns when I was young. The book brings back so many personal memories of enjoyable dining experiences. Suddenly I am eating scallops at Anthony's Pier Four or drinking a beer at Jacob Wirth's. Who would have suspected that Boston's rich history would include such a sumptuous culinary history, too? This is a fine study of all the mouth watering experiences visitors and residents of Boston have enjoyed. Dig in!

O'Connell serves up delicious information not only on fondly remembered restaurants but on the cultural trends behind dining's evolution from the 18th Century to the present.

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