



## **THE PHANTOM GOURMET**

### ***New England Cable News December 5, 1998***

There aren't many restaurants in New England that are worth a one hour drive... let alone a diner. But The Maine Diner in Wells, Maine is bigger, better, and a lot more modern than most diners these days.

Rating: Phan-Tastic Dining

Total Score: 90

Best Bet: Onion Rings and Clam Chowder

Date: 12/5/98

Categories & Specific Comments:

FOOD/DRINK: 8

Lobster club sandwich overflows with high quality lobster meat. Simple and sweet house special lobster pie. Extremely light and crispy fried clams. Baked beans are a flavor powerhouse with lots of bacon and onions. Hearty and fresh breakfast items.

APPETIZERS: 8

Some of the best clam chowders Phantom has tried in a while, not too thick and brimming with clams. Award-winning seafood chowder as well. Perfectly thin-sliced and deep fried onion rings. Chili was good, but needed a little more kick.

MENU: 10

Everything you'd expect from a diner, along with plenty of fresh Maine seafood options. Huge, fun menu.

PORTIONS: 10

Enormous-the Maine Diner prides itself on oversized portions. Even the side orders are enough for two.

SERVICE: 10

They make you feel like you're going to Grandma's. Exceedingly friendly and fast waitstaff, hosts, and owners.

ATMOSPHERE: 9

The inside is more typical of a diner than the exterior. Tables are close together so it always seems like this joint is jumping, which it usually is. Great fun.

CLEANLINESS: 9

Bathrooms are clean, even the parking lot was swept.

DESSERTS: 8

Fresh Maine raspberry pie offered a light, flaky crust. Moist and fudgy chocolate cake topped with a super-sweet frosting.

LOCATION/PARKING: 9

Route One in Wells, Maine (between Ogunquit and Kennebunkport.) Parking lot out front, and don't miss the gift shop.

VALUE: 9

Breakfasts average \$6. Appetizers for \$4. Sandwiches average \$5. Dinners for about \$10.

Higher than your typical diner prices, but you've never tasted food this good in a diner before.

SCORE: 90 PHAN-TASTIC DINING