

Al Fresco

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can relish the outdoors from a high, urban perch with a sweeping view of Little Traverse Bay.

Some of our favorite al fresco dining is in very restful settings, such as the serene, tree-shaded deck at the century-old Riverside Inn by the placid Leland River.

It's an old-fashioned place but with a very contemporary menu. (A steamed nappa cabbage wrap of chicken, cilantro, lime zest and chilies should be a nice set-up for broiled salmon topped with shaved, smoked bacon.)

Another such classic is Timmerin, 100 years younger but nonetheless in a graceful Victorian home that is now the Inn at

Beulah Beach. Its sheltered, wrap-around dining porch overlooks Crystal Lake. What we want to try there is "Crispy Duck-leg Confit," a recipe Chef Tim White provided for our new book. We're a bit reluctant to try it at home because it calls for 12 duck legs and we haven't any idea what we'd do with the rest of the six ducks.

The term "tiki bar" evokes the South Seas more than northern Michigan, but judging from the popularity of the waterfront tiki bar at Traverse City's Apache Trout Grill, a lot of folks Up North must like to pretend.

Garrett's on Water Street in Boyne City has a tiki bar on its lakeside terrace, too. And both places have docks for the waterborne.

Two of our own favorite outdoor dining spots actu-

ally are on the islands, mon!

One is Nina's, the restaurant at Beaver Island Lodge in St. James. The restaurant not only has a shaded patio by the shore, but also a dish of sautéed chicken in champagne cream sauce that's as sublime as the mid-lake sunsets.

Our other island delight is the veranda of the Iroquois Hotel's Carriage House Restaurant on Mackinac.

We have a secret dining tip there, too: Whatever's on the menu is probably terrific.

Sherri and Graydon DeCamp's new book, "Dining In Dining Out in Northern Michigan," is a food-lover's guide covering the region's restaurants, wineries, farm markets and specialty stores, and offering 130 recipes from leading chefs.

The data

Amical, 229 E. Front, Traverse City, 941-8888;

Apache Trout Grill, 13671 S. West Bay Shore, Traverse City, 947-7079;

Carriage House, Iroquois Hotel, Mackinac Island, (906) 847-3321;

Coho Café, 320 Main, Frankfort, 352-6053;

Cove, 111 River, Leland, 256-9834;

Garrett's, 1 Water Street, Boyne City, 582-1111;

Latitude, Marina

District, Bay Harbor, 439-2750;

Nina's, Beaver Island Lodge, Beaver Island, 448-2396;

Riverside Inn, 302 E. River, Leland, 256-9971;

Scott's Harbor Grill, 12719 S. West Bay Shore, Traverse City, 922-2114;

Timmerin, 173 Lake, Beulah, 882-5306.

Whitecaps, 215 E. Lake, Petoskey, 348-7092

Whitney's, 305 Bridge, Charlevoix, 547-0818



Record-Eagle/Lara Neel

Janet Ramoie, left, and Kyra Cross enjoy the warm summer weather at Amical Bistro on Front Street in Traverse City.

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