

MUST-GET GRUB

"SAUGUS WINGS" AT KOWLOON RESTAURANT.

The full secret recipe for the most popular dish at Route 1's sprawling shrine to festive Asian dining is kept under lock and key. Here's what we do know: They're deep-fried and wok-tossed with chopped garlic. More important, whatever is in the spicy, sticky sauce that ultimately lacquers these mouthwatering chicken wings, they inspire more hometown pride than boring old Boston baked beans ever could.

STEAK TIPS AT THE NEWBRIDGE CAFÉ.

An inconspicuous brick box swathed in shades of brown, the good ol' NewBridge (est. 1975)—just a mile off the strip—doesn't have a colorful neon sign like the spots right on Route 1. What the local fave does have, though, are lusted-after steak tips: skewered and flame-kissed on the open grill, which leaves a hickey or two of char marks perfect for covering up with a just-so-sweet barbecue sauce (also sold by the bottle).

"THREE WAY" SANDWICH AT KELLY'S ROAST BEEF.

If you want to see a fight break out, ask a Route 1 crowd to choose the best roast beef

sandwich shop. (People take this *seriously*.) Now that Kelly's is expanding to Florida, though, there's no question that its medium-rare slices of 25-day-aged beef knuckle—topped with the regional-classic trio of mayo, barbecue sauce, and white American cheese—will be the standard-bearer bringing the North Shore to the South.

CHICKEN PIES AT HARROWS.

On busy days when nobody's cooking for the kids, the frozen chicken pot pies at family-owned Harrows—offered alongside its famous fresh ones with golden-flaky crusts—will feed up to six. Pro tip: Add an order of rolls, for swabbing up all the gravy-covered goodness.

CINNABON FRENCH TOAST AT IRON TOWN DINER.

Hangovers are a hazard of a night on the town. Should one strike, coddle your bleary eyes, ringing ears, and rumbling stomach with a triple-decker of Texas-style French toast—frosting-glazed and doused in cinnamon and powdered sugar—at a terrific townie diner tucked right outside the hubbub of the main strip. Your brain, meanwhile, will take great comfort in the endless coffee. Bottoms up.

THE SALAD BAR AT THE HARDCOVER.

Route 1 is a place powered by nostalgia for old-school American restaurants, and what's more old-school than a salad bar? Yeah, yeah—we know manhandling shared tongs feels oh-so-naughty nowadays, but there's something oddly comforting about assembling crunchy iceberg lettuce, crumbly croutons, and scoops of Thousand Island dressing with fellow family-night-outers at the Hardcover, where the salad bar comes with every entrée.



Water Park of New England

OLD-SCHOOL FUN

TOWN LINE LUXURY LANES, MALDEN

With plush booths, glow-in-the-dark "Atomic Bowling" nights, and bowls of boozy punch swimming with Swedish Fish, this bowling alley is a kingpin castle compared to most joints.

ROLLER WORLD, SAUGUS

Eighties babies, take note: This classic rink renting quad and in-line skates designates Tuesday nights for adults only. That means throwback jams overhead and no little kids tripping up your moonwalks.

SKULL CLIFF, LYNNFIELD

A half-mile hike down a dirt path behind a Route 1 Chrysler dealership leads to—surprise!—a 30-foot-tall

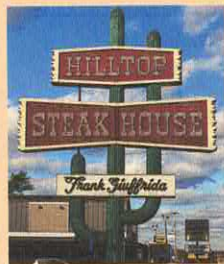
quarry wall covered in colorful skeletons left by graffiti artist Ichabod in 2001.

IN THE GAME, PEABODY

Up for a challenge? Hit the climbing wall or three-story-tall ropes course at this all-ages play palace off the strip. Bonus points for laser tag, weekly karaoke nights, and cotton-candy-topped martinis.

WATER PARK OF NEW ENGLAND, DANVERS

Twisty pool slides and an indoor river will tucker out the kiddos for the ride home at this year-round splash pad. If the hot tub puts the grownups into nap mode, too, "Splash N Stay" packages at the neighboring hotel await.



1989

The Hilltop Steakhouse rakes in \$80 million, the high watermark of a period in which it is widely considered the highest-grossing restaurant in the country, and perhaps the world.

1999

America's then-hottest couple, Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake, tear up the dance floor at the massive Palace nightclub complex, which went "Bye Bye Bye" in 2004.



2009

Hungry night owls rejoice when New England's first Sonic drive-thru restaurant opens in Peabody, serving fast-food burgers and shakes, plus retro carhop service, till 2 a.m.

2015

In an early casualty of still-ongoing redevelopment on Route 1, a wrecking ball arrives for Weylu's, a colossal and infamously decadent Chinese restaurant that took three years to build in the '80s.