



Boston Cream Pie at the Omni Parker House

Famous Boston Gastronomics

Although many people come to Boston to enjoy a great steak or a good Italian meal, there are a number of foods that are truly associated with Boston, either because they were invented here or they play such an important role in Boston's culinary scene.

What could be more *Bostonian* than Boston Cream Pie? Not much. After all, it's the official dessert of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts! It was created by French chef M. Sanzian at Boston's Parker House Hotel shortly after it opened in 1855. Of special significance, Boston Cream Pie was the first time chocolate was used as an ingredient in a recipe. So the obvious place to get the real thing is at ***Parker's Restaurant*** at the *Omni Parker House Hotel*, 60 School Street.

While you're there, enjoy another Boston treat: Parker House Rolls. These buttery oval rolls with a crease through the center were invented here in 1867. Also at ***Parker's Restaurant*** in the *Omni Parker House Hotel*, 60 School Street.

And what could go better with Parker House Rolls than New England Clam Chowder? Please don't confuse our version with Manhattan's that has added tomato. Perish the thought! Ours is considered the "pure" version. Who has the *best* chowder? We argue about that all the time. In fact, every summer we have a contest, called *The Chowderfest*, to determine who's the top maker. Does that settle it? Not really, but I can tell you that last year's winner was ***Ned Devine's Irish Pub***, in Quincy Market (part of the Faneuil Hall Marketplace).

Officially, Scrod is a baby cod fillet typically served baked with a layer of bread crumbs on the top and a light butter sauce. Frequently, you'll find the word spelled as "Schrod". That add "h" means much more than just a letter – it changes the definition from a young cod to a young haddock. Of course, this distinction often gets lost on a non-Bostonian chef, but to us purists, it means everything!! You'll find Scrod on the menu in a lot of Boston Restaurants, but the quintessential seafood eatery is ***Legal Sea Foods***. Scattered throughout the city, but my favorite location is on the Waterfront at 255 State Street.

And finally, Boston Baked Beans. I get asked all the time, "*Why Baked Beans?*" The answer is that during the early 19th century, Boston was the biggest port city in America. Much of that trade was with the Caribbean, where we got cane sugar cane and ultimately begot molasses plants (we can talk about the Molasses Flood in another article). The North American Bean and the Molasses became a natural marriage and hence, the Boston Baked Bean. One of the last places left that serves real Boston Baked Beans is ***Durgin-Park*** in Quincy Market (part of the Faneuil Hall Marketplace).

