



The Green Dragon Tavern on the historic Blackstone Block Area

Cheap Lobster in Boston??

In the 17th and 18th centuries, lobsters were considered "junk". When lobsters were plentiful, they were given away to poor folks. Lobster was so commonly used as a food for prisoners that Massachusetts passed a law forbidding its use more than twice a week. And the term "lobsterback" was used as an insult in Boston to red-coated English Troops at the time of the Revolution.

However, you may be somewhat aware that things have changed over the last couple of centuries. Prices have risen so high that you may think that the term "Cheap Lobster" is a true oxymoron. If you go to any of Boston's "normal" seafood restaurants, your thoughts will be borne out. But there is hope! When there are a decent amount of lobsters around and "spot" prices are down, places that you least suspect begin having "Lobster Specials" at VERY special prices. Where are these surprising places? Check out Boston's Irish Pubs, where lobster dinners are temporarily added to the menus for between \$10 and \$15 and indicated by a flag or "sandwich board" sign outside.

It's easy to wonder if a \$10 lobster is as good as \$35 one. Here in New England, we Bostonians prefer the boiling method for lobster, so it's pretty hard to mess it up unless you cook it too long or the lobster starts walking away from the plate. Add to that the fact those most pubs have pretty good French Fries as sides and one can make a pretty valid comparison. Not bad savings \$100 for a family of four, eh??

The easiest place to check is Union Street, just across Congress Street from City Hall and almost adjacent to Faneuil Hall. Here there is a series of several Irish pubs from which to choose, including the Purple Shamrock, Hennessy's, Paddy O's, and The Green Dragon Tavern. Just look for the flag or sign and check out those prices!!

- Alan Maltzman of BostonCityWalks.com