

## FOOD FINDS

Spotlight on local flavors

### Jalapeno margarita

Greenwich Bay Oyster Bar  
250 Main St., East Greenwich  
398-2462

greenwichbayoysterbar.com  
Open seven days a week  
3 p.m. to close

By Chris Keegan  
Associate Editor



Looks can be deceiving. Greenwich Bay Oyster Bar's \$9 jalapeno margarita starts out sweet, but the mellow heat of fresh peppers creeps slowly to the back of your mouth; before long, your lips are tingling from this smooth, spicy alternative to the essential summer classic.

The drink was an off-the-books special until recently, when it was added to the restaurant's new cocktail menu.

Bartender Jonathan Smith, a North Kingstown native, starts with fresh, diced jalapenos; he adds a homemade sweet, simple syrup (jalapeno seeds, which are strained from the syrup after it has been reduced, give it a serious kick).

Next comes Milagro Reposado tequila, followed by triple sec, a splash of orange juice and sour mix. The drink is shaken over ice, and the entire rim of a traditional

margarita glass is covered in lime juice before it's poured. Salt is optional.

The icy froth is refreshing, but deceptive: About an inch of the way down, a dull fire has been ignited. But while the changing flavor is decidedly peppery, it's not too overpowering; the cold spice is an irony perfect for the heat of summer afternoons.

Expect your palate to be challenged – and if you want the drink hotter, just ask.

Greenwich Bay Oyster Bar, a cozier alternative to some of the area's larger oyster bars, is located at 250 Main St., East Greenwich. The restaurant serves \$1 oysters Sunday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m., and usually features at least three or four oyster varieties.

*"Food Finds" is a monthly column featuring delicious food and drink items from restaurants and bars in the South County area.*

editorial@neindependent.com



PHOTO: MICHAEL DERR

Jonathan Smith, a bartender at the Greenwich Bay Oyster Bar in East Greenwich adds pieces of jalapeno pepper to the jalapeno margarita.

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