Marylanders share what makes a crab cake delicious and where to find the best ones

Kaleah Mcilwain | 2021-09-02

What do sunshine and harbor views pair perfectly with? Seafood. Seafood is a go-to in the Summer months and for many Marylanders that means blue crabs and crab cakes.

Crab cakes are well-known and served around the world, but if you want to have the best crab cakes, some will argue you have to try them in Maryland. Crab cakes in Maryland are fresh, meaty, and don't need fixings or condiments.

Crab cake sandwich from May's Seafood Restaurant. (May's Seafood Restaurant/Facebook)

Steve Groom, a life-long Marylander, who grew up catching and eating crabs, can detect when a crab cake is not made with 100% crab meat.

"The perfect crab cake is shaped similar to a thick hamburger patty. It is 100% crab meat with no fillers or imitation crab meat. It is delicious by itself or as part of a meal. It does not require any fixings or condiments to enhance the awesome taste," Groom said.

Groom thoughts about crab cakes is a popular opinion among other Marylanders. For Maryland blogger Pam Stultz, while quality is very important, size is also a factor.

Stultz said ideally she likes crab cakes to be about the size of a tennis ball. A generous portion size is what can make or break whether a restaurant is one of her top places to get crab cakes.

"If I'm going to pay my hard earned money for a crab cake it's got to be right!" Stultz said.

Crab meat has a very delicate flavor and the best out there are the king crabs of the world that give you rich, sweet meat. Stultz prefers that her crab meat come from Maryland crabs and if there are going to be any fixings they need to enhance the natural flavor.

"I do like a little bit of tartar sauce or remoulade sauce on the side to just lightly dip a bite of my crab cake in. And there's got to be some Old Bay Seasoning on the table. Other than that, I prefer my crab cakes straight up!" she said.

Tyler Brady who has lived in Maryland his whole life has pursued the best crab cakes in the state.

"A good chef should be able to make an amazing crab cake without a bunch of additives, but they will still use Old Bay of course to accomplish the perfect blend of flavor," Brady said. Like Stultz he has found that the best crab cakes allow the natural flavors to come out. For Brady that is accomplished with just a drop of lemon juice and the right amount of Old Bay.

(Liberty Road Seafood/Facebook)

Crab cakes can be a light meal and are often served with sides. Stultz prefers no sides at all, just a condiment or two, while others like Brady prefer to have a full hearty meal with a side of baked potato and asparagus.

The consensus for sides is that they must not take away from the main focus, the crab cake.

Now that you know what makes a crab cake the best, it's important to know where to get them in Maryland.

Groom's number one place to get crab cakes may be surprising because it's not a seafood or crab house, it's a pizza shop. He said Box Hill Pizzeria has the best crab cakes that are made with 100% crab meat and have a unique flavor because they are broiled instead of fried.

Some of Stultz's favorite restaurants that are serving lightly breaded, large, meaty crab cakes are Dutch's Daughter, May's, and Liberty Road Seafood in Frederick.

Let me know who has the best crab cakes in your part of Maryland and why.

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New natural skin care store opens in Downtown Baltimore

NKVSKIN held its grand opening on Wednesday, June 1, at 113 N. Charles St. It offers a full line of skin care products and services for women and men. The business is owned and operated by Nikia Vaughan, one of the recipients of the inaugural BOOST (Black Owned and Operated Storefront Tenancy).

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Limited tickets available for Maryland's second Trans Resilience Conference

(Erik McGregor/Getty Images) Trans Maryland and Montgomery County HIV/STI, in partnership with local trans leaders, is hosting two days of free workshops to build community and solidarity among the trans community.

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Proposed water rate increases to potentially go into effect July 1

Army Corps conducts stormwater surveys in Hagerstown, Maryland.(Flickr) The Board of Estimates approved a request from the Department of Public Works to hear public comment and request a vote of approval or disapproval for increases to water, sewage and stormwater rates.

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Fire department summer camp for girls now accepting applications

(Mark Makela/Getty Images) Camp Spark is a two-day camp where girls who are 12-16 years old learn what it takes to become a firefighter, paramedic or EMT. Boys are also welcomed to apply.

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Multiple road closures this Memorial Day weekend

(Kamil Krzaczynski/Getty Images) Multiple events are taking place this weekend causing road closures and changes to street parking, according to the Department of Transportation.

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#BmorePopUp series returns with free Stop the Violence concert

(Office of the State Attorney for Baltimore City) State Attorney Marilyn Mosby announced that the 2022 Pop Up series will return to an in-person format, start earlier and be expanded to 10 weeks of pop-up events.

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Baltimore city schools' CEO pledges support for students and staff following tragic school shooting in Texas

Law enforcement on scene after a mass shooting yesterday at Robb Elementary School.(Jordan Vonderhaar/Getty Images) City schools will have counselors available to meet individually or in small groups to help students and staff process the shootings that happened recently in Uvalde, Buffalo and Baltimore.

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Vote for your favorites in Best of Baltimore's 2022 Readers' Poll

There are two weeks left to vote in the Best of Baltimore's 2022 issue. Voting closes on June 3 and winners will be announced in the September issue that will be on newsstands on August 26.

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Gov. Hogan calls on city Comptroller to minimize gas tax increase scheduled to be announced soon

Gas prices in Washington D.C. as of May 17.(Flickr) On June 1 of every year the Comptroller's office announces the gas tax increase that will go into effect on July 1. The tax increase is calculated by the Comptroller office.

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City commits $26 million to mitigate food insecurity caused by COVID-19

(Matthew J. Lee/Getty Images) Baltimore City has committed an additional $11 million toward providing nutritional security for those in need, bringing the total funding to $26 million.

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Baltimore ranked as one of the best places to live in the U.S.

Baltimore and Salisbury made the latest U.S. News and World Report list of the Best Places to Live in the U.S. The rankings were revealed on Tuesday, May 17, and out of 150 metro areas in the U.S. Baltimore ranked at No. 84 and Salisbury ranked at No. 115.

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Preakness to affect road closures, street parking in Park Heights

Preakness Live is this coming Saturday, May 21, and in preparation for the thousands of people it will attract, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) will implement traffic modifications around Pimlico Race Course.

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How is Baltimore celebrating Bike to Work Week?

(Tim de Waele/Getty Images) After two years of virtual celebrations, Bike to Work Week is back in person for its 25th celebration starting Tuesday, May 17. Various activities will be held during the week to promote biking as a sustainable commuting alternative. The week will kick off with a safety information session followed by a 13-mile group bike on Tuesday, May 17, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., leaving from the Druid Hill Park Basketball Courts.

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Free live performances coming to the Baltimore Farmers' Market

Baltimore Farmers Market.(Baltimore Green Map/Flickr) Starting this June there will be food and drink vendors and free live performances in the same space as the Baltimore Farmers' Market underneath the Jones Falls Expressway.

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Inner Harbor's annual paddling event, Floatilla, is back

4th annual Baltimore Floatilla.(Flickr) Baltimore's theme for its fifth annual Floatilla is Treasure Hunt and will take place on June 4, starting at 9 a.m. at the Canton Waterfront Park.

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Old Bay seasoned Goldfish crackers available for a limited time

The popular snack brand Goldfish in partnership with the iconic seasoning brand, Old Bay, has launched limited-edition Old Bay seasoned Goldfish crackers. The limited time flavor is available now where Goldfish are sold for a suggested retail price of $2.79 for a 6.6oz bag, according to McCormick.

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Summer SNAP program receives record $2.8M in funding

(Justin Sullivan/Getty Images) The program, which helps low-income families feed school-aged children in the Summer, has received a record $2.8 million in funding to increase benefits for 28,000 students.

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Wine tasting in Harbor East tickets on sale

Tasting tables will be lined along Aliceanna Street in Harbor East with sommeliers and wine experts from neighborhood restaurants this Saturday, May 14, from noon to 4 p.m. for wine tasting.

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Holliday Street building gets new life as $5.5M community museum

The Peale on Holliday Street.(Ed Gunts/Bmore Art) After a five-year renovation, the Holliday Street building, the United States' first museum, is now The Peale, a community museum, set to open on August 13.

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Core bus route changes to go into effect in August

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA) released its Fall 2022 Service Plan which includes service enhancements, adjustments and discontinuing routes.

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