

POPULAR FOOD Excellent food is found anywhere on the menu. Typical of a Cambridge bar, the B-Side serves an upscale menu, befitting the founders' upbringing at the East Coast Grill.

DRINKS Almost anything you can think of can be had here, with excellent martinis at the top of the list. The beer, wine, and cocktail selections are all extensive. Try the B-Sidecar—Labiette Castille Bas Armagnac, Cointreau, lemon juice, grenadine, in a sugar-frosted glass.

SEATING There is a decent amount of it for a Cambridge bar. The dining room is middle-sized and the tables are many, and the bar is U-shaped with plenty of top. Still, come early or risk a wait for either space at the bar or a table. The joint is always jumping.

AMBIENCE/CLIENTELE The B-Side has been a place to be since the day it opened, whether you are looking to hang at the bar and chat up your neighbor or bartender, watch the Sox game on the small tube in the corner, have a great dinner sitting in the vintage leather booths, or come for an awesome weekend brunch and a spicy Bloody Mary. The wait staff is cooler than you are, and the regulars are representative of the melting pot that is Cambridge.

EXTRAS/NOTES Ask for the hardboiled eggs when you are sitting at the bar. They come in a neat wire rack that seats about twenty. They are tasty and conversation starters. Check out the cool retro wire frame airplane hanging above your head, and the classic architectural touches all around, including original tin ceilings.

—Paul Collins

Casa Portugal

Elegant, dependable Portuguese in a classically romantic setting.

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1200 Cambridge Street, Cambridge 02139

(between Tremont Street and Prospect Street)

Phone (617) 491-8881

www.restaurantcasaportugal.com

CATEGORY Portuguese

HOURS Mon-Thurs: 11:30 AM-10 PM

Fri/Sat: 11:30 AM-11 PM

Sun: Noon-10 PM

TRANSIT Metered parking on Cambridge Street. Alternate: take T to Lechmere stop on the Green Line. Walk one mile up Cambridge Street, or take 69 Bus to Norfolk Street stop.

PAYMENT 

POPULAR DISH *Arroz a Valenciana*: a lil' bit of everything, including gourmet meats and fresh seafood.

UNIQUE DISH Each table is served with fresh Portuguese bread, high-grade olive oil, and a bowl of delicious Kalamata olives. Warning: seafood is so fresh that it's often served with the head still on.

DRINKS Fabulous Portuguese wines, including Port, Madeira, greens, whites, and reds.

SEATING Not a particularly large space. Best to make reservations, especially for larger parties, or on weekends.



AMBIENCE/CLIENTELE Charming, old-world decor invites everyone from couples to families to business associates looking for fresh, classic Portuguese dishes.

EXTRAS/NOTES Simple and authentic. Reservations available, but worth the wait for walk-ins. Mild-mannered staff still helpful in a bind, like breaking a wine glass.

—Emily Doutré

Central Bakery

(see p. 95)

Bakery

732 Cambridge St., Cambridge 02141

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Christina's Homemade Ice Cream

(see p. 226)

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HOURS Mon: 11 AM-3 PM
Tues-Thurs: 11 AM-7 PM
Fri: 11 AM-8 PM
Sat: 11 AM-6 PM

MASS TRANSIT Bus: #69 down Cambridge St.

PAYMENT 

POPULAR FOOD No frills seafood; Fish n' Chips for under \$7; fried clams, haddock, smelt, mackerel, and more; homemade fish cakes; linguica.

UNIQUE FOOD Every Thursday, fresh sardines and stickleback is flown in directly from Portugal. If you don't see the fish you want on the menu, find something in their adjoining fish market and they'll cook it up for you. Sodas and juices

DRINKS Less than ten small tables; no table service

SEATING A good sign of a seafood restaurant, the entire place is pristinely maintained. The tables are always bussed, and the kitchen counters are orderly. The signage makes sense and is easy to read. Order at the counter and wait for your name to be called; at lunchtime, the neighborhood's lawyers and clerks crowd the place

—Laura Stone

