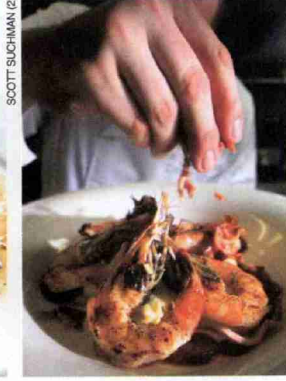


[ABOUT TOWN] TRAVELOGUE Edited by Joe Sugarman



From left: The Bartlett Pear Inn, Mitchum's Steakhouse and 208 Talbot.

THE "IT" LIST

talbot county, two ways

Even with the increase in the Bay Bridge toll, these Talbot County restaurants are worth a trip across the Chesapeake. Here, we suggest a place to splurge and a place to spend a little less.

>**IN ST. MICHAELS:** **208 Talbot** remains the go-to in town for romantics, tourists and ex-politicos. ("Hey, is that Dick and Lynne Cheney at the next table?")

Order: Jumbo shrimp sauté with chorizo, dried black figs, green olives, pomegranate molasses. (410-745-3838, 208talbot.com) **Spend less:** Head to the new local favorite, **Big Pickle Food Bar**, for its gourmet deli sandwiches at lunchtime, its rollicking happy hour or sophisticated fare (citrus-olive braised lamb shank) at dinner. 410-745-8011, bigpicklefoodbar.com

>**IN EASTON:** **The Bartlett Pear Inn** offers French-inspired cuisine and a seven-room bed and breakfast so you don't have to schlep home after dinner—just walk upstairs. **Order:** The "Lamb Trio" of basil-crusting Colorado rack of lamb, braised shoulder and house-cured lamb prosciutto. (bartlettpearinn.com, 410-770-3300) **Spend less:** **Brasserie Brightwell** is the bistro antidote to the Bartlett Pear's fine dining scene. Think moules-frites, escargot, frogs' legs and bistro burgers. 410-819-3838, brasseriebrightwell.com

>**IN TRAPPE:** Where the heck is Trappe? Just beyond Easton along Route 50. Here, you'll find one of the brightest surprises on the Shore—**Mitchum's Steakhouse**, which boasts an interior equally as handsome as its namesake, actor Robert Mitchum, who owned a farm nearby. (410-476-3902, mitchumsteakhouse.com) **Order:** Steak, of course. Any way you want it. **Spend less:** The only other option in town is **Mitchum's Café** and its excellent lunchtime menu of soups, salads and sandwiches, including "steakhouse burgers" and Belmont steak sandwiches. (Same contact info as above.)

>**IN OXFORD:** The historic **Robert Morris Inn** reopened in 2010 and the old girl has been busy with locals and tourists ever since. Pass on the stuffy formal dining room and eat in the tavern instead. **Order:** Chef Mark Salter's crab cakes are just as good as the ones author James Michener touted when he supped here many moons ago. (410-226-5111, robertmorrisonn.com) **Spend less:** The intimate **Pope's Tavern at the Oxford Inn** makes for a splendid place to wile away a cool fall day with a plate of fig ravioli and a glass of Buttonwood Cabernet Franc. 410-226-5220, oxfordinn.net

MAKE A DATE

dutch treat

If you've ever wanted a handmade quilt but aren't handy with a needle and thread, head down to Southern Maryland for the annual **Amish Quilt Auction**. The event draws hundreds to bid on 100-plus, hand-stitched traditional and contemporary quilts, in addition to handmade furniture, at the farm of Magdalena and Samuel Stoltzfus of Mechanicsville. Not only can you snag a beautiful quilt here, but the event offers a fascinating peek into the life of the Amish community, which uses funds raised from the auction to pay for medical expenses throughout the following year. King-sized quilts have been known to fetch upward of \$5,000, but a keen eye and a quick hand can yield deals. Remember to bring your own camp chair and a few extra dollars for homemade chicken soup and sticky buns to eat on the drive home. Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Grove Farm Lane, off of Route 235/Thompson's Corner Road, 301-475-4200, ext. 1404, visitmarysmd.com/dwinter.asp —Mary K. Zajac



TRAVEL GOODS

small packages

How many travel necessities can you cram into a tote that's the size of a kiwi fruit? It would seem to defy the laws of physics, but the folks at mother-daughter-owned Ms. and Mrs. have somehow stuffed—count 'em!—16 items into their **Minimergency Kits** for women. We're talking mouse-sized bottles of hairspray, clear nail polish, nail polish remover, breath freshener and lip balm. There are also handy items like earring backs, a sewing kit, double-sided tape, stain remover, pain reliever, a tampon, dental floss and adhesive bandages. The stylish, \$15 totes even sport good luck charms on their zippers, ostensibly to ward off any travel emergencies. Also see their survival kits created specifically for men, moms, brides, college kids and others. Order from msandmrs.com.

