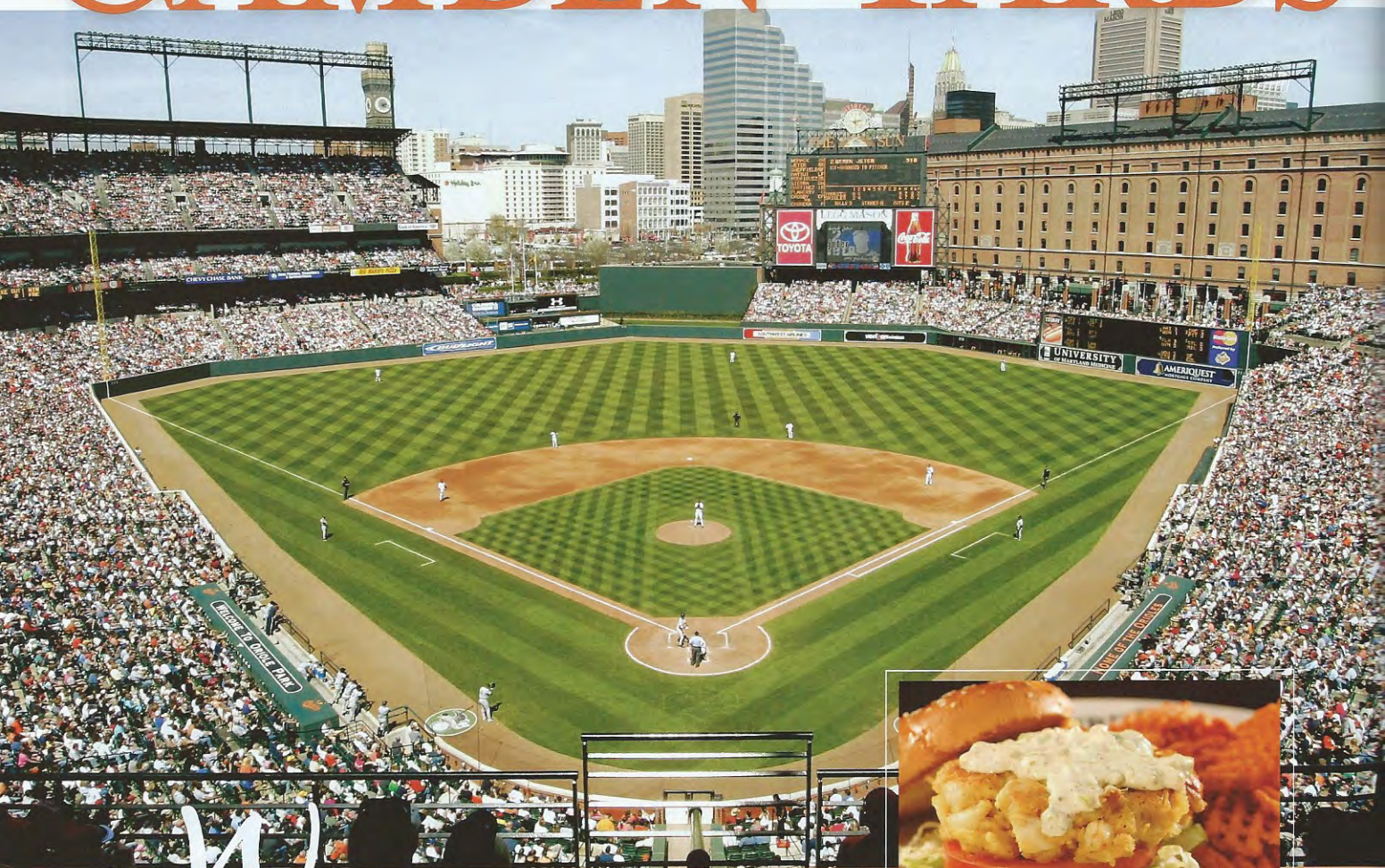


More than *just* Peanuts
or Cracker Jacks

Dining in and around

CAMDEN YARDS



When Baltimore shakes off the frosty cloak of winter and embraces the sultry breezes of spring, the city is ready to welcome back their boys of summer: The Orioles. With eighty-one home games filling nights and weekends from April to October, it's no wonder baseball is called "America's Pastime." And that's eighty-one reasons to visit Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the O's handsome home and the first of the modern "retro" parks now found all over the country.



Located in Baltimore's busy Inner Harbor, **Oriole Park** does not allow tailgating in their parking lots. Conveniently, however, there are plenty of sports bars and pubs clustered in the shadow of Camden Yards that can fulfill one's need to grab some sustenance before gametime. Places like **Sliders Bar and Grille** or **Pickles Pub** across the street are favorites among those who like to

hang out before or after the game with a beer and some bar snacks.

For a sit-down dining experience, **Frank & Nic's West End Grille** offers a comfortable dining room with specialty cocktails and a diverse menu. With 15 plasma screens, you can enjoy the game without leaving the restaurant. **The Pratt Street Ale House** provides tasty pub grub to accompany their own line of handcrafted ales.

For a more upscale dining experience, **The Yard Bar & Grille**, located in the Marriott Inner Harbor, provides a farm-to-table menu. In the nearby Hilton Hotel, **Diamond Tavern** serves savory but sophisticated dishes like shrimp and grits and citrus crusted salmon in an elegant environment.

For those not lucky enough to be staying downtown and who can only find parking a couple blocks north of the park, **Lexington Market** offers myriad food choices, from deli sandwiches to gyros. **Alewife**, nearby, serves decadent pub grub like truffled mac and cheese along with a staggering array of beers on draught. Their focus is fresh ingredients, and their Smoke Burger is made from fresh beef ground in house.

If you'd prefer to eat during the game, you can bring in your picnic lunch or dinner (check the Orioles Web site for guidelines). And of course there are plenty of places in the park itself to grab a great meal. **Dempsey's Brew Pub and Restaurant** is named after Orioles Hall of Famer Rick Dempsey and features hearty fare like bacon on a stick. And since we're in Baltimore, there's no shortage of blue crab, as in cakes, soup, and dip. They also brew four distinct beers in house to complement their large selection of local beers. If you just want something to go, local favorites like **Boog's Barbeque**, **Gino's Burgers & Chicken**, and **Stuggy's Old Fashion Hot Dogs and Sausages** are a sure bet.

Before or after the game, be sure to visit the **Sports Legends Museum**, located in the historic Camden Station, next door to the ballpark. And just two blocks away, on Emory Street, sits the birthplace of one of baseball's greatest heroes, Babe Ruth.

★ By *Kathy Wielech Patterson and Neal Patterson* Co-authors of *Food Lovers' Guide to Baltimore* (*Globe Pequot*, 2013) and *Minxeats.com*. 📍

