

Nostalgia in 2022: The Red Rooster Hamburgers a Must on Route 22

“You should sit with your family at dinner for 15-minutes a day... Unless you’re busy, then you should sit for an hour.” – author unknown

We tend to romanticize the past, and that’s not a bad thing because sometimes having a nostalgic experience is exactly what the heart and head need in today’s hectic world. Those looking for a slice of Americana may want to hit the road on a cruise up Route 22 to Brewster, New York where they’ll run across The Red Rooster, an iconic drive-in with unmistakable A-frame building and giant rooftop ice cream cone that speaks of slower days gone by.

Some things have changed since the restaurant was first opened in 1963 as a seasonal custard stand, but the hallmarks of quality food, cheerful staff, and a throwback restaurant feel are frozen in time. The family atmosphere comes naturally, considering staff has historically included children and grandchildren that have grown up around The Red Rooster over the last six decades.

The same goes for generational patrons that still enjoy classic menu favorites like 100% Angus beef cheeseburgers cooked to order on toasted buns, chili cheese dogs, chicken tenders, and, of course, shakes and ice cream. In recent years, the menu has been widened to include healthier meals, such as a variety of made-to-order wraps and hand-tossed salads.

You can bet that more than one conversation that has started by parents reminiscing with their kids about how they used to pile seatbelt-less into station wagons to go have a meal at The Red Rooster. For many, those classic land yachts have been replaced by SUVs and minivans, although families don’t have to eat in them anymore if they so choose.

The restaurant underwent a renovation in 2019 that added an indoor dining area and expansive outdoor seating, some under a state-of-the-art pergola complete with louvered roof and retractable sides and others in direct sunlight (with table umbrellas available), giving patrons a variety of seating options to enjoy a meal. The addition kept the same red and white décor appropriate to the genre and even added a giant cheeseburger on the roof to match the classic vanilla ice cream cone.

Expanding the dining room and adding the patio seating didn’t mean sacrificing The Red Rooster’s popular pet-friendly picnic table area that separates the restaurant from its 18-hole miniature golf course.

“While keeping the retro dining theme, we wanted to stick with changing times by offering different dining experiences for our guests,” said Andy Lintzeris, a manager at The Red Rooster. “Our history is steeped in a great guest experience, earning us a loyal local crowd and brand recognition from travelers around the country. We take a lot of pride in carrying the tradition forward for another 60 years,” he added.

And who knows, maybe while enjoying a game of putt-putt, you'll be able to do some star gazing. Celebrities including Meryl Streep, Kevin Bacon, Timothy Hutton, Sam Waterston, Tom Brokaw, and more have been spotted at the Classic American favorite over the years.

So, load up the kids, put a collar on the dog, and head to The Red Rooster for some incredible food and an hour or two throwback escape from the craziness of today's world.