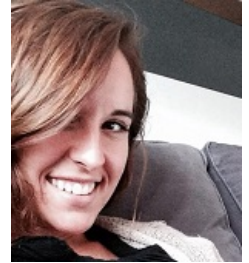


A Few of My Favorite Downtown New Bedford Spots



by Alexi
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Downtown New Bedford is jam-packed with incredible restaurants and cafes. Within a few short blocks, we have access to Mexican, Thai, Italian, Japanese, Seafood and the list continues. I mean, come on. How lucky are we?! Every time I drive in, it's nearly impossible for me to leave without going for coffee or a bite to eat. Since I've spent a good deal of time in the area, I'd like to share a few of my personal favorite spots that I consider a "must try" while in Downtown New Bedford.

First stop is a given, **No Problemo**. This Mexican masterpiece is the greatest! I'm not one to crave a burrito but if I hear someone say the words "No Problemo" chances are I'm changing my lunch plans. Even if you're a mild fan of Mexican food, their burritos, tacos, quesadillas, and hearty salads will make you a lifelong customer.

They have a booming take-out business or if you're looking to dine in, they offer a fun, casual atmosphere, with a fully stocked bar. No Problemo also hosts live bands two to three times a month, which they actively promote on their Facebook page. Overall, this place is a favorite to many, and a goldmine for the city of New Bedford. If you haven't had the chance to try it, I highly suggest you get over there!

Second is **Brick Pizzeria Napoletana**. When you walk by this restaurant, especially during the colder months, all you see is the brick oven fire burning in the background, with all of its perfectly charred, cheesy pizzas. Whoever designed the restaurant did a fantastic job of positioning the brick oven, because seeing it through the window is all that's needed to be lured in. Besides their pizzas, they have an incredible selection of sandwiches and salads you can't get anywhere else and massive create your own calzones. Brick Pizzeria is also home to two of my favorite deserts.

The first is the "Nutella Pizzetta", a pizza dough covered in Nutella and powdered sugar, and the second is a sweet ricotta cream cheese stuffed cannoli with chocolate chips. Even when ordering take-out, I'm certain to get one of these delicious deserts to take home. With all of the great pizza places available to us in the New Bedford and surrounding areas, I would rank Brick Pizzeria at the top of the list.

My all-time favorite café is the **Green Bean**. This café opened back in 2004 and was one of the initial businesses helping to revive the Downtown New Bedford community. The corner coffee shop is made up of wall to wall windows creating a unique atmosphere. They have a large menu ranging from bakery items to sandwiches, wraps and salads. For those of you who enjoy vegan and vegetarian options like myself, this is the place for you. They also have a broad selection of coffee and tea, as well as some great smoothie options. If you're looking to spend a rainy day in a cozy coffee shop, this would be my personal favorite!

Last but not least, my favorite spot is **The Black Whale**, which opened this past 4th of July. This waterfront restaurant sits in a prime location overlooking New Bedford's harbor. Their large deck is covered, so regardless of rain or shine, you're able to enjoy outdoor dining. The modern interior is bright and open, with a large wrap-around bar, and plenty of seating.

Both the staff and bartenders are awesome, and capable of making whatever drink you can think of (trust me on this one) and they have great food portions. Whether you're stopping in for a business luncheon, or meeting a friend for dinner and drinks, this is a one of a kind spot!

Overall, those who bring business to the restaurants and shops in Downtown New Bedford collectively make this city more valuable. The potential for this area to be a hot spot is remarkable and together we give the city purpose to continue striving for improvements. I consider myself to be a proud resident of New Bedford; my hopes are for people to support the ongoing development in downtown, and take advantage of all the city has to offer because it's much more than we give it credit for.

Now on that note, get out there, try these awesome places out and let me know what you think!
