

The Palm Beach Post

FOOD

Restaurant openings: A sneak peek at Charlie and Joe's at Love Street in Jupiter

Cecilia Mazanec Palm Beach Post

Published 8:01 a.m. ET Feb. 16, 2021 | Updated 10:01 a.m. ET Feb. 16, 2021

It's impossible to talk about Charlie and Joe's at Love Street without mentioning the view.

Across the water at Jupiter Inlet's new dining complex stands the Jupiter Lighthouse, a red focal point for future visitors walking on outdoor paths or seated inside, peering up between bites.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, these visitors will be "future" no more. On that date, restaurants in the complex named after partners Joe Namath and Charles Modica will officially open to the public. The football icon and developer are the combined force behind the waterfront property's transformation.

Jupiter Joe: Namath fell in love with north county at first sight. Now, he's part of Jupiter's newest restaurant complex

The hours for each place will be announced after the grand opening. (Save this story! We'll update it when the hours have been announced.)

Currently, the three eateries and seafood market that make up Charlie and Joe's are in the midst of a soft opening.

"It's been going fantastic," said Rachel Mills, a spokesperson for the Love Street complex.

While this period before the grand opening has been meant for the restaurants to get a better idea of what's working in the menus and spaces, she said visitors have already shown a lot of interest.

Beacon, an American grill and fine-dining spot, has been booked up through the week. And there's been a line outside Lucky Shuck, the complex's casual oyster bar, before opening every day, Mills said .

As its ribbon-cutting ceremony nears and the pandemic continues, the complex has implemented protocols for safety. A press release mentioned hand sanitation stations, constant cleaning of surfaces, daily temperature checks and health screenings for team members and required masks for employees as well as guests moving around the establishment. Those dining in have the option of contactless ordering, and there are some outdoor seating spaces.

Inside, all the spots appear ready for the opening.

Love Street: A food and drink guide to Jupiter Inlet's new restaurant complex

At Tacklebox, the white-tiled seafood market attached to Lucky Shuck, workers sell sandwiches, salads, snacks and other grab-and-go meals. Fresh catch from fishermen is displayed behind a clear barrier on the counter for visitors to take home and prepare themselves.

Inside Lucky Shuck, touches of Joe Namath and old Florida decorate the space between wide windows. Memorabilia — from vintage photographs to postcards to license plates — hang in frames, collected and curated by Namath's daughter Jessica.

The scenery and food in the restaurant keep the emphasis on “fresh.” From their seats inside Lucky Shuck, diners can see fishermen's boats docked in the water. It's a view highlighting just how close the seafood's origins are to their own plates.

And on those plates? The menu ranges from options like the ceviche trio, served on an iced platter with a coconut bowl, to colorful oysters on the half shell that have been grilled, roasted or fried.

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Just a walk across the heart-shaped courtyard is the entrance to Beacon, a name fitting for a spot where one can dine in the evening with a view of circling lighthouse beams.

This more upscale restaurant has a clear centerpiece: the open kitchen. Chefs and employees are at work in full view (and sound) as they stir pots, prepare plates and mix drinks. The menu features meals like a roasted duck breast, cold-water oysters and charred Spanish octopus. And just like the main dishes, dessert offers a variety of sweet options: a lemon tart dessert and cheesecake to name a couple.

Finally, let's take it to the top. Topside, the rooftop bar, is located directly above Beacon. As reported in the Beach's previous coverage of the complex, the menu features “fun topics” and one can

“expect a full-blown tiki experience” when it comes to cocktails.

Seating options are plentiful.

Sit at the bar or on outdoor hanging chairs. Sip under the roof decorated with string lights, while perched on casual cushioned benches. Or find a spot on a high chair by the railing, where the Jupiter Lighthouse once again commands the skyline.

What to know about Charlie and Joe's at Love Street

Charlie and Joe's at Love Street: 1116 Love Street, Jupiter, Florida

Opening: Feb. 18, 2021

Read more: Our food and drink guide to Charlie and Joe's

Read more: The story of how Joe Namath fell in love with north county -- and became part of Jupiter's newest restaurant complex