

EAT IT

by **BARRY ESKANDANI**

The dubious promise of a pleasant al fresco dining experience in SF, especially one in the Castro, can be all but impossible to find or believe. On June 29th, Starbelly showed us not only that it can be made to happen, but be done successfully in an already well known and loved neighborhood establishment.

With the start of the warm summer days which will carry us through October, Chef Adam Timney has brought to our hearts and our stomachs something delicious... the urban picnic. Perfectly chosen to recur each Tuesday evening from 5:00-8:00 PM, Timney will tempt your taste-buds with an innovative choice of classic comfort American cuisine that will rotate weekly, leaving you happily comforted by the decadent and healthful choices uniquely chosen on a weekly basis.

For the opening tasting, our first course, and my personal favorite was a variation of a standard bruschetta with an American twist. Slow-cooked pulled pork, radicchio and Jalapeño slaw on a large crostini. Following the succulent pork appetizer, the table was beset with bratwurst mini corn dogs with a spicy/sweet mustard with peppercorn, gingered yams infused with maple and brown sugar and the vegetable dish – creamed yellow corn with mascarpone and chives... Is your mouth watering yet? Buttermilk battered fried chicken and smoked honey glazed baby back pork ribs left everyone speechless.



STARBELLY

The sweeter side of our "picnic" came with dessert: apricot and cherry cobbler with brown oat sugar crisp crust and Humphry Slocombe "secret breakfast" bon bons rolled in walnuts and coated in a hard semi-sweet hard chocolate. The bourbon and cornflake ice-cream inside was almost too much to wish for.

Details:

- It's picnic time on Starbelly's patio every Tuesday, 5-8 p.m. (July 6 through Aug 31)
- Arrive anytime during the three-hour picnic dinner service and load up your plate (no seating times)
- Seats are \$25/person, and guests are welcome to second helpings!
- Beverages available for purchase (not included in the picnic dinner price): wine, sangria, lemonade, micheladas, and pitchers of beer
- Reservations accepted, but not required, and walk-in parties are welcome
- Find Starbelly at 3583 16th Street (at Market), and for more info, visit StarbellySF.com
- To reserve a patio picnic seat, phone Starbelly: 415.252.7500