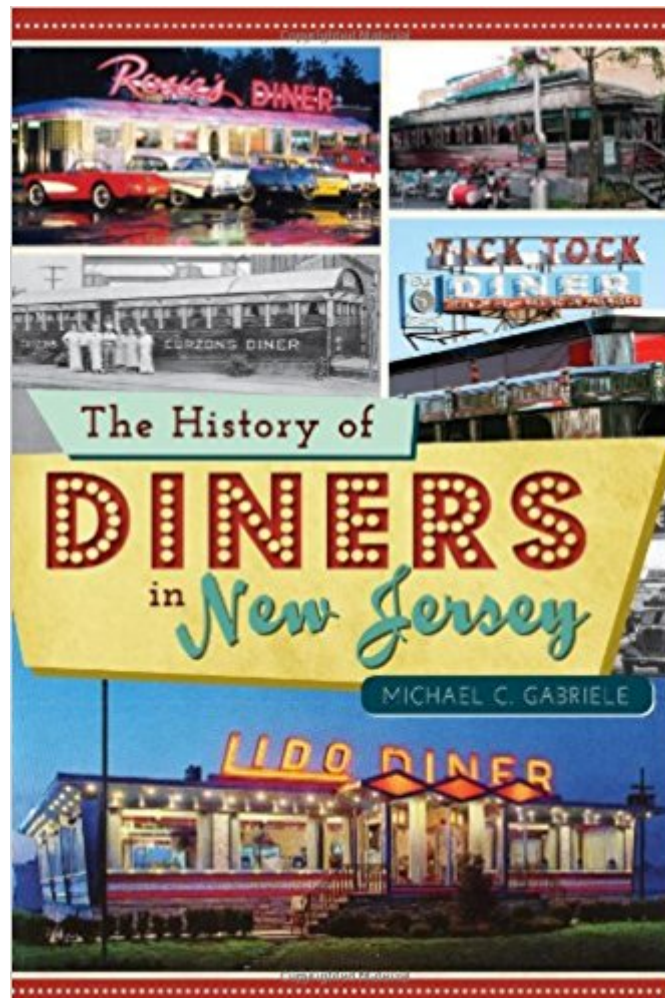


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The History Of Diners In New Jersey (American Palate)



Synopsis

The silver Airstreams and neon signs of the classic American diner brighten New Jersey's highways and Main Streets. But the intrinsic role they have played in the state's culture and industry for more than one hundred years is much more than eggs-over-easy and coffee. Diners are the state's ultimate gathering places--at any moment, high school students, CEOs, construction workers and tourists might be found at a counter chatting with the waitresses and line cooks. Jerseyans yearn for lost favorites like the Excellent Diner and Prout's Diner and still gather at beloved haunts like the Bendix and Tick Tock Diners. Although the industry is all but gone today, New Jersey was once the hub of diner manufacturing, making mobile eateries that fed hungry Americans as far away as the West Coast. Author Michael C. Gabriele offers this delicious history--collected from interviews with owners, patrons and experts--and indulges in many fond memories of New Jersey diners.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael C. Gabriele is a lifelong New Jersey resident and a graduate of Montclair State University. He is the author of *The Golden Age of Bicycle Racing in New Jersey*, and has worked as a journalist for over 35 years. He is a member of the executive board of the Nutley Historical Society and is on the advisory board of the Clifton Arts Center.

I first saw this book at the Morristown Museum when I was there to see their diner exhibit. My

boyfriend and I are nostalgic about diners because they represent a simpler time when strangers actually spoke to one another regularly. New Jersey is a diner haven and, according to this book, that history started on July 3, 1912 with the purchase of a lunch wagon from Jerry O'Mahony in Bayonne. I enjoyed traveling through time and learning about the builders and proprietors of these diners and their history. I know many of these places and have eaten at several of them myself. I would have rated this 5 stars except I found some editing mistakes, a lack of transition from one story to the next in a few places, and sometimes confusing info. For example:- The author says on Page 15 that July 3, 1912 started NJ's diner history yet on Page 17 the author mentions the first wagon was opened in 1904 according to an article in the Saturday Evening Post. There was no effort in the text to clear up the confusion. I read it twice and am still confused if the diner history started in 1904 or 1912.- On page 101, there's a picture of Skee's Diner that shows a plaque on the front named Jude's Place. The author tells us a lot about this diner and its change of names, but there was no mention of when it was Jude's Place. Since the Jude's Place sign was so glaring, a mention of that name in the text (even if the author couldn't find out about that name) would have been appropriate.- The index in the back is sometimes misleading. My boyfriend couldn't find some diners on the pages listed but I don't remember which ones they were. The index is the first thing he goes to in order to find a picture of the diner or its history and he was complaining to me how he couldn't locate a few diners he was searching for even though they were in the book. He also mentioned that Linden is spelled wrong on Page 156. He jumps around in the index and reads sporadic texts so any mistakes in the index are more than a minor annoyance to him. I would think that for a book like this, the index has to be perfect because some people want to find both the story and the pictures of the diners on the pages mentioned. Nevertheless, I enjoyed this book and it made me want to visit some of these diners. For instance, I drove past the Bendix dinner over 100 times since the 1980's and always wanted to eat there. This week my boyfriend and I ate there and were glad we did. If this book brings back those memories or a desire to visit these relics, then it's more than worth the purchase price.

Mr. Gabriele did an outstanding job in his summary of the history of diners in New Jersey. An eating place of the past should not be forgotten and he captured an overview of many diners in New Jersey.

returned because there were no diners in morris and sussex counties.

Fun facts and great pictures! Great guide for NJ, the diner capital of the world!

Comprehensive exploration of the history of diners.

Well researched and well written. Another story of New Jersey's past from Michael Gabriele.

Thoroughly researched, including personal involvement. Well done, as his bicycle book. More, please

People have no idea what a dinner is in the West .

Interesting book with new places to visit

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