

# {the} LOST KITCHEN

March 19, 2020

Dear Friends of The Lost Kitchen,

The first day of spring has finally arrived. Today is a day to rejoice, a day to celebrate. It's the day we've been waiting for so long to come back around. Since winter took its grip months ago, we've been yearning for this very moment. But this year is different. Rather than stepping out into a bright new season, we instead find ourselves hunkering down through a dark storm that has come in the form of a virus. Life has changed for all of us. Separated from friends and family in a world that's upside down with confusion and fear, we have had to change the way we think, live, and even eat.

While I sit here writing to you, I'm confined to my home, as if there were a blizzard furiously wailing away outside. But the sun is shining. My chickens are pecking their way around the yard, happy and unfazed, and I'm a bit envious of them. I have to keep reminding myself that this too shall pass. Like any big, dangerous blizzard, we must wait patiently for that moment when the last flake falls. And when it does, we can emerge and let the dig out begin.

So we must stay patient, positive and keep looking forward. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with friends and family. I can't wait to gather around the same dinner table and celebrate each other and our togetherness again. And when that day comes, I will embrace and cherish it more than ever. In the meantime, I offer you a simple distraction and the announcement of our 2020 reservation season. While our opening date still remains up in the air, the day *will* come, and when it does, we hope you can join us.

This season we will continue to use our old fashioned reservation system. However, we have made a few changes that will help keep our staff healthy and cared for as well as give you some extra time to get your card in. Everything you need to know about our reservation process and the changes for the 2020 season are attached below.

The simple postcard; a way to connect from afar. While we distance ourselves today, I hope you'll find some connective comfort and warmth with this reservation process. Over the years you have filled our mailbox with tens of thousands of postcards. Receiving them has been the greatest joy, and it was clear that a lot of you had fun with it. We received postcards with poems, paintings, and pen and ink drawings. We got cards that made us laugh out loud and cards with intimate stories that brought us to tears. Postcards with jokes or quotes or even family recipes that had been passed down and enjoyed for generations. Every card was different and revealed glimpses into the lives of the people who had sent them. We connected with you in a truly meaningful way. If you find yourself confined to home waiting out these wild days, I hope a simple postcard might offer you some much needed distraction. Hey, why not send one to a friend or two while you're at it? Let's stay connected while we are apart.

For now, I'm craving to get a little lost and not think about the world today. What I need more than ever, and maybe you do too, is to dream about a delicious candlelit dinner with dear friends in the middle of nowhere Maine on a warm summer night sometime this year. I'm hopeful for the changing of seasons, and I can't wait to cook my heart out for you. Sending you love and healthy wishes from Freedom.

Very Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin French', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin French

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## 2020 RESERVATIONS

Request for our 2020 season  
are currently being accepted by mail.

(you don't need to wait for April 1st this year!)

To enter, you will need:

**one postcard**

+ appropriate postage

With the health and safety of our staff in mind, we ask that you send your postcard envelope-less.  
Less licking on your end, less opening on our end ;-)

On the back side:

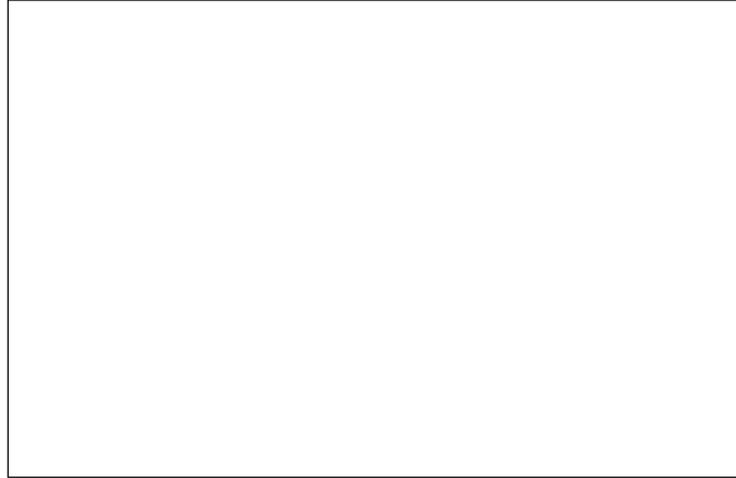
Please provide the following information:

The post office uses  
the bottom 3/4".  
Please do not put your  
contact info in this area  
or it will be covered  
with a barcode and  
illegible. →

POSTCARD	
NAME	
MAILING ADDRESS	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER	
	
	<u>THE LOST KITCHEN</u>
	<u>22 MILL STREET</u>
	<u>FREEDOM, ME 04941</u>
	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>

We strongly suggest **not** including additional notes on this side of your postcard to ensure we can read your contact information clearly. Please use the other side of the card for this. Don't worry about specifying desired dates or number of people in your party. If your card is selected, we will personally help you select the best date and table for your party.

Feel free to go wild on the front side:



Your postcard may be store bought or homemade.

Maybe now more than ever, you need to lose yourself in a little project.

If you choose to make your own card:

- \* Please keep the card within standard postcard sizing and no larger than 4x6 inches.
- \* Use a heavy grade paper, such as card stock, to ensure your card travels well.
- \* Be sure to use adequate postage to ensure deliverability.
- \* Have fun with it!

We kindly ask that you:

- \* **Do not send more than one postcard.** Duplicate submissions will be not be considered. Only send one postcard for yourself. Do not send postcards on behalf of others. If your household consists of you and a spouse/partner, both individuals may send their own postcard on behalf of themselves...but if you both get picked, we kindly ask that you decline a second reservation so others can enjoy a dinner as well.
- \* **Write clearly and legibly.** If we can't read your contact information, we can't call you.

## Postcards are currently being collected.

You may postmark your postcard anytime now through May 1st.

Send away!

We recognize that things are changing day by day, and as of now, we hope to begin our postcard drawing on May the 1st. If we find the need to postpone this date in order to meet the health and safety needs of our ever changing world, we will. And we will of course let you know.

Once our drawing begins though, this is how it goes;

If your card is selected, you will receive a personal phone call to coordinate your reservation for the upcoming season. Cards will continue to be selected at random every day until reservations are complete for the season. It typically takes us 3-4 weeks to make all calls. Once reservations are complete for the season, we will make announcements through our website and social media to inform everyone that the process has come to an end. If you do not receive a call within that time period it means your card was not pulled in our initial drawing. If we receive a cancelation, your card will automatically be eligible to be pulled again.

For the time being, the state of Maine has shutdown all restaurants until further notice. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to open our doors to you at some point soon. And when that moment comes, we will cook our hearts out for you.

Sending you love, luck, and good healthy wishes from Freedom.