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Cohasset has a small gem in 5 South Main

September 05, 2010 | Joan Wilder, Globe Correspondent

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5 South Main

5 South Main St., Cohasset

781-383-3555

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Catering available

Major credit cards accepted

Lunching solo at one of the patio tables outside of 5 South Main in Cohasset Village on a perfect afternoon this summer, I was the first to make the celebrity spotting: Cohasset High graduate Kate Bosworth, of “Superman Returns” fame, arriving at the small restaurant with an older couple.

As they ate inside, I watched several sets of departing diners confer on the movie-star sighting in a similarly covert fashion. Two women gaily chatting their goodbyes on the sidewalk suddenly lowered their voices and huddled closer.

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“I thought so!” one exclaimed with widening eyes. “Oh, yes, I’m sure!” said the other.

Even without special guests, 5 South Main is a friendly hub of village activity where people tend to chat like friends as they come in for take-away foods or sit down for a meal.

It’s hard, when passing through town, not to stop for a bite or some good iced coffee — and I haven’t resisted the urge on many occasions this summer.

It is owned by Jennifer Warshaw, a Norwell native who was a partner with her mother in Maggie’s Corner Bakery in Cohasset until its closing a few years ago. At 5 South Main (formerly the site of Cafe Zuppa), she has created an adorable, small eatery (22 seats, excluding the patio) with homemade breakfast and lunch dishes, daily soups and other specials, terrific take-away items (granola, pesto, quiche), and specialty cupcakes.

The 5 South Main sandwich (\$8) is an original: thick slices of tender, moist chicken breast on a baguette slathered in guacamole and melted cheese, and topped with a spicy black bean and corn salad.

Equally good is the caprese (\$7), another big sandwich with buffalo mozzarella, wonderfully caramelized onions, roasted red peppers, and tomatoes, on bread slathered with the house

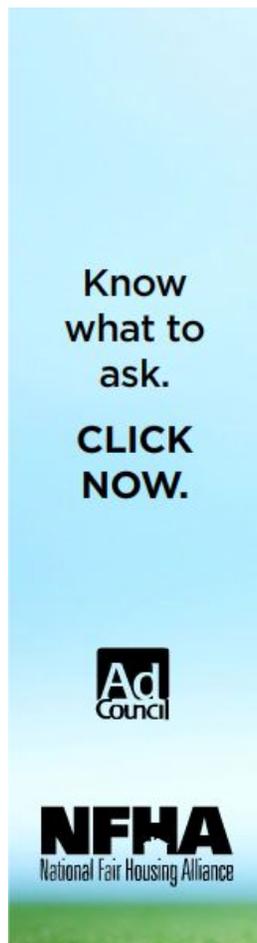
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Also good is the pungently dressed chicken Caesar salad wrap (\$8) and the delightful tuna melt (\$7) — with just the right amount of onion and celery — on perfectly grilled multigrain bread. The special lobster roll (\$12) is very good and big enough to share.

All of the sandwiches are accompanied by very carefully crafted side dishes: orzo salad, potato salad, acini de pepi (peppercorn-sized pasta) salad.

Most items on the breakfast and lunch menus have an array of add-on options: add grilled chicken to any salad for \$2.50; for a dollar or two, add avocado, caramelized onions, bacon, or Italian sausage to the house grilled-cheese sandwich (\$6); add fruit, nuts, honey, or house-made granola to oatmeal (\$2.50) for 75 cents.

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