

Albemarle Plantation’s Clubhouse Restaurant

by Claude Milot

Hungry loopers sailing the waters of the Albemarle Sound have many choices when it comes to satisfying their appetite for good food. All the towns in the Loop—Elizabeth City, Hertford, Columbia, Plymouth, and Edenton—have a variety of restaurants within an easy walk from town marinas. But no restaurant beats Albemarle Plantation’s Clubhouse restaurant for its unique combination of splendid location and fine dining.

Overlooking the 18th hole of Albemarle Plantation’s Sound Golf Links and the Albemarle Sound beyond, the Clubhouse restaurant is only a short walk from AP’s marina to gustatory delight. As Executive Chef Jonathan Szarke states to every prospective patron, “I want to awaken your palate with great-tasting food.” He adds that if he has any secrets, it’s quality, simplicity, a nice presentation, and new menus that



Figure 1 Shrimp Carbonara

never get monotonous. Indeed, Chef Jon changes his menu quarterly to include seasonal ingredients and seafood like scallops from the Outer Banks, Carolina shrimp, and fish from local waters. Albemarle Plantation is fortunate to have found a chef with such a fascinating background. Jon began his education at Le



Figure 2 Grass Fed Prime Rib

Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Minneapolis followed by an internship in Dusseldorf, Germany. Back in the States, Jon honed his craft as *sous chef* in Crown Plaza and Marriott hotels, then executive chef for a contract food service, and after that chef of Trattoria da Lepri, an exclusive Italian establishment in Ellington, Connecticut. But he had always wanted a restaurant of his own and started looking for a place that fit

his budget. He found one in North Carolina, an off-the-beaten-path restaurant in Hertford called Patricia's. Unfortunately, his investment did not return enough on his investment after three and half years. But Albemarle Plantation was aware of Jon's talent, having employed him on occasion as a consultant at the Clubhouse restaurant, and when it made him an offer to become its executive chef, he grabbed it. Now,



Figure 3 Apple Walnut Salad

residents of the Plantation no longer have to drive out to Patricia's to sample Chef Jon's specialties: they can enjoy them right here at the Clubhouse restaurant. And, after a short stroll from the marina, so can Loopers.

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Additional Notes:

Local knowledge for approach to Albemarle Plantation Marina can be found at <http://albemarleloop.com/videos.html> : and "Albemarle Plantation Entrance Video - view the actual navigational courses and markers for entering the channel to Albemarle Plantation Marina"