

Eating Well for Less

— by Elizabeth Smyth

Brentwood Pub | 849 Verdier Ave. | 250-544-2079

This is no ordinary pub. This is a pub with sex appeal, with soaring ceilings and huge French doors flung open to let in the summer breeze and enhance the ocean view. A pub where you pay for the view with overall higher prices. Still, there are items for \$12 and \$13 that you can enjoy while luxuriating in this beautiful space. The first of these is the seafood chowder. Apparently, after corporate events, the kitchen gets flooded with emails asking for the recipe. It has a sweetness that only freshness can bring. The mound of seafood and potatoes in the 16-ounce serving includes the surprise of butternut squash. The classic Caesar is carefully wrought with a lemony dressing, shaved Grana Padano and crispy, deep-fried capers. The lamb burger is fat and juicy, and sides are high quality, including the Caesar or battered sweet potato fries. You can get half-and-half sides for no extra cost, a small thing I appreciate. I didn't try the pizzas at \$15-\$16, but I saw the size, and they can be shared. An innovation at Brentwood Bay Lodge two years ago was a sushi bar, boasting a chef who worked for 10 years at the Four Seasons in Tokyo. He's putting a twist on traditional sushi by incorporating local ingredients. If you're out with the children, the staff are very accommodating, offering you



Rebecca Wellman

Brentwood Bay Pub: (l) Finlayson roll (with salmon on top), Tod Inlet roll, (r) Seafood chowder

the pub menu in the adjoining restaurant to get around the liquor law. Speaking of liquor, the Lodge offers Victoria's only licensed pool deck, so if you're staying there or have used the spa, you can enjoy a drink and a meal poolside looking out over the ocean. That's a little piece of summer heaven of which I intend to partake.