

# Mane Character Energy: Leo season's fiercest, fanciest foodie finds

Like it or not, it's Leo Season, y'all! From July 22nd to August 22nd every year, the planet becomes just a little bit more extra while those of us lucky to be born under this leonine sign all declare as one that "It's MY birthday month!" Face it: for Leos, this stretch of time is a full blown party, and not just any spot will do for these ferociously fickle felines. As a Leo myself (August 15th, a national holiday, and the date of *Motif's* food truck awards!), here are some of my faves for when I just need to celebrate and channel my Main Character Energy - which is stronger than normal around this time of the year.

## Porch Dining at The Clarke Cooke House

Leos are all about getting glammed up and having a fabulous time, and what better way than to indulge at one of the last spots where a dress code is (thankfully) enforced? Yes, guys must don sport jackets, and gals are expected to reach similar levels of #fashion, but your efforts will be rewarded with effortless service by handsome, tuxedo-clad gentlemen (ok, purr), a menu of locally inspired delicacies (the Lobster with Sauce Poivre Rose is winsome without catering to the masses of seafood zombies on the wharf below), and of course, the Snowball in Hell, everyone's favorite Newport dessert - a wine glass filled to the brim with house-made chocolate mousse, devil's food cake, Callebaut chocolate, fresh vanilla ice cream and toasted coconut. Watch all eyes turn to your table as this towering trifle is presented, complete with a birthday sparkler - but don't worry, Leo. You're the sparkliest one in the room.

*24 Bannister's Wharf, Newport*

## The Boombox Karaoke

The overlap between manic theater kids and August birthdays is unsurprisingly common, and where else can one belt out "Little Girls" from *Annie* while sipping on a fruity, guava-y Love Cat sake cocktail served in an actual ceramic cat glass? The Dean Hotel is already a total vibe - the 52-room boutique hotel boasts a fantastic location and distinctive decor right in the heart of downtown PVD - and the swanky subterranean lounge is the perfect place to channel your inner diva. Private karaoke rooms are available, but in true Leo fashion, the main room is where the spotlight will truly shine on you. Also, "Little Girls" is my karaoke song of choice. #MissHanniganDeservedBetter #SorryNotSorry

*122 Fountain Street, PVD*

## Secret Garden at Ocean House

Nothing says excessive like a champagne and crepe garden, and even though Westerly is a bit far, Ocean House is a total Leo mood, and I am so here for it. The Secret Garden pop-up runs all summer long, and no birthday visit is complete without a Smoked Salmon Crepe with a generous scoop of Royal Belgian Osetra Caviar and a Veuve Clicquot Rich Rosé Watermelon Crush Swimming Pool cocktail, featuring fresh watermelon and Pop Rocks! They're even open for private dining in their lush waterfront realm, and honestly, that sounds like an ideal birthday party to me!

*1 Bluff Avenue, Westerly*

## **Cara at The Chanler**

IMO, Leos are the pickiest sign of the Zodiac, so when you subject us to a tasting menu that is completely Chef's choice, you're either in for an Oscar-winning tantrum, or a happy kitty, nibbling contentedly on foie gras. At Cara, it's definitely the latter. With only four tables, guests are truly the stars of the show as they indulge in five or eight course menus of bespoke culinary creations. Executive Chef Jacob Jasinki is at the helm of this impressive Forbes Five Star dining experience, and between the seaside views and gastronomic greatness, this experience is not to be missed.

*117 Memorial Boulevard, Newport*