

## IRISH SUSS WITH 5-STAR CLASS

CULHANE'S IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT OFFERS UNIQUE FARE



Culhane's Irish Pub & Restaurant is a modern sports pub that specializes in "Comfort Food with an Attitude." Their savory and authentic Irish specialties and excellent service brought them inclusion in "The Top 10% Worldwide Restaurants by TravelersChoice 2020."

The owners are four dynamic "sassy" sisters from Limerick, Ireland — Lynda, Michelle, Mary Jane and Áine — who spent their childhoods

in Ireland working alongside their parents on the family farm, where they developed a genuine love for the land, organic quality food and hard work. The first restaurant in the **Iacksonville** area off Beach Atlantic Boulevard opened in 2005. Southside The location opened in 2018. The

sisters

won awards for

Shepherd's Pi

"Best Fish 'N Chips" and "Best Sports Bar" in various media competitions. Today, there is added excitement surrounding their newly introduced "5 Sisters Spirit Vodka" — providing them another opportunity to achieve their American dream.

have

In 2010, when the economy was plummeting and businesses across America were being forced to close their doors, the sisters received a phone call that changed

the fate of their original first location in Atlantic Beach. Restaurant talk about Culhane's Irish Pub had reached producers of the program "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." Producers loved the restaurant's website, menu and story, prompting them to contact Michelle about the possibility of being featured on the popular show hosted by Guy Fieri.

"Before a spot on the show could be secured, production teams were sent to check out the pub in person," Mary Jane said. "They wanted to make sure everything was made from scratch and to guarantee that it was a legitimate, authentic place. A lot of Irish pubs are all about the bar, but we've always focused on our chefs and delicious

food; many of our recipes come straight from our mother Kitty's kitchen. That's what sets Culhane's apart."

The creators of "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" agreed.

"A week after learning we had landed a highly-coveted spot on the show, Fieri was in our kitchen," continued Mary Jane. "The show highlighted popular Irish comfort foods like the Guinness Beef Stew, Dingle Fish Pie and Blarney Lamb Sliders. The unique ambiance and close-knit community, too, were emphasized — a true Irish pub atmosphere."

Today, the Culhane's restaurant vibe hasn't changed. The sisters successfully opened a second and larger Southside restaurant in the center of Jacksonville's Tinseltown neighborhood. With a bustling, open main dining room featuring a raised stage for entertainment, as well as numerous TVs in the bar and dining areas for sports fans, patrons might enjoy Irish dancers charming their way into their hearts and occasionally the familiar sounds of bagpiper accompaniment. Each night there is something fun happening, such as trivia, bingo and fundraising events.

The sisters have never lost



**TABLE TALK** 

with LEIGH CORT





and Southwest American foods while teaching other restaurant employees how to take traditional Irish dishes of meat and potatoes and create a new "wow" dish. This is when he feels he's done his job well.

Brunch is a perfect time to order Chef Jason Gishler's Brisket & Grits or Sesame Shrimp. His perception of "Food as Art" marries a broad brushstroke of local ingredients to create dishes that he's enjoyed serving since 2005.

Beaches' iconic Chef Kevin Reed has been part of the Culhane family for 15 years.

"I love working for the Culhane's," he said. "Everyone's philosophy

too. mine, Ouality and timelessness. Service with a smile. And yes, we are having fun in kitchen, too."



New delicious dishes coming from the kitchen are Chef Ron Anderson's Ultimate Patty Melt on rye with cheddar cheese, caramelized onions and special sauce (his secret) ... and Marinated Pan-Seared Crispy Cod.

Guests are craving Chef Marvin Barnes' Louisiana Gumbo and Don Pittman's Spicy Chicken and Shrimp over Pasta with the Sisters Vodka Sauce.

Pairing secret house recipes with plenty of Guinness, the staff and sisters know how to put guests in the best of spirits. They all possess "the gift of the gab" — an uncanny Irish knack for conversation and friendliness that makes everyone feel at home. When you meet the Culhane sisters, you'll know why they bring "Irish Sass with 5-Star Class" to Northeast Florida!

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