

# Destination Absecon Island: 5 Cocktails to Drink Before Summer 2015's End

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Guest Authors



by *Jennifer A. Cohen*

Ahhh, summer. It's Mother Nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" And what better place to party than the Jersey Shore, especially Absecon Island, a little slice of seaside heaven just a stone's throw away from Philadelphia. Margate, Ventnor, Longport, Atlantic City—what wonderful towns they are, with endless choices for fun. Pick your pleasure: boat in the bay or swim in the surf; hike, bike, jog or walk; work out, sit in or shop 'til you drop. Come cocktail hour and dinnertime your options are dizzying—from down and dirty bars to eateries decked out in white linen tablecloths.

For all of you gathering in these towns for one last hurrah, one final beach day, one more sunset or one ultimate bike ride to the inlet and back, let us toast to this not quite done summer of 2015 with one (or two) of the many fun, colorful, delicious and distinctive cocktails served in these summertime spots. To help you decide which one, I set out to find the five most popular drinks at some of the island's hottest places.

**Pink Prozac at [Tomatoes](#)**

It comes as no surprise that Tomatoes was the most mentioned bar both in my informal research and in the chatter I overheard throughout Absecon Island. Tomatoes is always hip and current; so are its patrons, and of course, so are its drinks. While the key lime martini received a ringing endorsement, Sean, one of Tomatoes' many bartenders, claimed that the Pink Prozac is one of the most ordered cocktails. Made with lemon vodka, triple sec, fresh lime juice, grapefruit juice and a splash of cranberry, the Pink Prozac is a remedy for any mood! Who knew? Now you do. 9300 Amherst Ave., Margate City, N.J., (609) 822-7535

### **Blueberry Lavender Lemonade at [Knife and Fork](#)**

I continued moving right along and ended at the iconic Knife and Fork, rich in tradition and steeped in history. Opened during Prohibition, today it combines some of the old and some of the new. It's a unique building—four floors, each with a story to tell. The sophisticated and beautiful bar with its eye-catching inlay tray ceiling is a perfect place to toast with your favorite people and your favorite cocktail. According to Ryan, the general manager, the blueberry lavender lemonade is the most popular drink. Made with Brockman's gin, fresh New Jersey blueberries, fresh lemon juice, homemade lavender syrup and organic lemon soda, it screams fresh and feisty. Clearly a pleaser, this drink had me at lavender. 3600 Atlantic Ave., Atlantic City, N.J., (609) 344-1133



### **Watermelon Margarita at [Catch Restaurant and Bar](#)**

Catch is designed and decorated to feel like a vacation, and it works. Surrounded by large silver porthole mirrors, ocean blue walls, a Carrera marble bar and white leather bar stools, one is immediately relaxed and ready for a cocktail. Catch's bartender, Maria, declared the watermelon margarita the hands-down victor. And why not? Made with fresh watermelon juice and agave, it tastes like a warm summer breeze. 2401 Atlantic Ave., Longport, N.J., (609) 822-FISH

### **The Transfusion at [Robert's Place](#)**

If you aren't familiar with it, this "laid back since way back" summer Margate staple feels like Norm, Cliff, Sam and Diane are there ... you know, a place where everybody knows your name. If you agree that "there is nothing better than a bar stool, a good beer and some clams casino," Robert's Place is your place. But if it's a cocktail you crave, the Transfusion (with



vodka, grape juice and Sprite) is the most ordered sip, according to Joey the bartender. Next time you're in town, give one a try! 7807 Atlantic Ave., Margate City, N.J., (609) 823-5050

## Grey Goose Martini at [Steve and Cookie's by the Bay](#)

A chip shot away, within an easy walk, is Steve and Cookie's by the Bay. Steve and Cookie's, like Tomatoes, is always hopping and always crowded, even in non-summer months—proving that Margate is not just a beach town. The locals have cemented the restaurant as a pillar of the neighborhood. Its menu and decor are defined as simple elegance; I define the food as simply delicious. With live music, several different rooms and a number of bars, each dining experience takes on a different flavor.

And speaking of flavor, no mention of Steve and Cookie's would be complete without someone bringing up Cookie's famous blueberry pie.

Ok, back on topic. Bartender Jon Baker gave me the goods: when dining at Steve and Cookie's, a simple and elegant Grey Goose martini is a solid choice. 9700 Amherst Ave., Margate City, N.J., (609) 823-1163

As the sun prepares to set on the summer of 2015, raise your glass and say goodbye to summer and hello to autumn with new adventures to come. And to you, Mother Nature, thanks.

