

# Everything Mom and Baby

...first steps and beyond



September 1, 2011

## Family night out at Red Lobster

Thursday, September 1, 2011



Interesting thing happened to me. Many years ago when I first started dating my husband we went to Red Lobster, we had a nice time but I'm not going to lie to you, it didn't knock us out. For whatever reason we just never ended up going back.

A month or so ago I started seeing these commercials where a crab fisherman in Alaska is talking about the freshness and quality of his catch. That catch, of course, ends up at Red Lobster. I was impressed. I liked the angle (no pun intended), and it planted the thought in my mind that we should go to Red Lobster, it's been close to 10 years!

Here's the interesting part (and I'm not making this up), maybe a week later I'm contacted by a gentleman from Red Lobster. He said that they loved my blog and wanted to invite me and my family to experience the new Red Lobster. How could I say no?

I wondered what changes they were talking about, I saw the commercials but didn't know about the renovations. My husband works by a Red Lobster and noticed a lot of construction was taking place over the last few months. He thought the new look was great. My curiosity was piqued. The location near where we live is inside a shopping mall in downtown Toronto. Would they be able to pull off that quaint Bar Harbour, New England appearance and feel indoors? The short answer is yes!

The new look, which is slightly tweaked in places to blend into its unique surroundings, fits beautifully. We certainly liked the outward appearance, but we haven't entered yet and you can't always judge a book by it's cover.



inside the newly renovated Red Lobster.

Everyone reading this with small children (pretty much all of you!) knows that feeling when you walk into a restaurant and the staff subtly rolls their eyes in irritation. It makes you feel terrible, and brings your whole evening down. Not here! We were treated warmly right from our entrance, and a nice lady even offered to show our somewhat wary Charlie the lobster tank. That lady turned out to be Anat Lederman, the GM! Now that's hands on. Although Charlie wasn't going to put his hands on any lobsters!



Anat Lederman, General Manager

Our server, Barb, was very friendly and knowledgeable. No questions went unanswered. Now, I know they were expecting us. But we were keen to observe the whole restaurant, not just our table was getting wonderful service. The servers moved quickly and with big smiles, even on the other side of the restaurant no where near our table. The general feeling was positive and they were genuinely happy to be there. Anyone who has been in a place where the staff clearly doesn't care can attest to how nice it is to be enjoying yourself, with your kids, and being surrounded by a happy vibe.

Anat, the GM came by the table and was more than gracious and accommodating. Having a little one herself, she understands the importance of catering to families and is a natural with both Charlie (whom she entertained for awhile leaving us alone for a few minutes – much appreciated!) and the more mature diners.

Oh yeah! How about the food you ask! The menu was very well put together and my husband loved the photos, especially of the Crab Fest specials, which prompted both of us to order from those choices.



Crab Fest



All were under \$25, and most were even under \$20. This was a surprise. Seafood has never been cheap. The portions were huge, and after the highly recommended and absolutely delicious Cheddar Bisquits, we couldn't get through it all. I had the **Snow Crab and and Crab butter Shrimp**, Barb was thankfully on hand to crack the succulent crab's legs for me (that was much appreciated, and all the servers can easily do it for you), and my husband, a shrimp fanatic, dove into his **Seaside Shrimp Trio** dish with gusto. Excellent! Charlie had the **Lobster Pizza**, and I don't know who liked it more, him or his hungry dad.

So if you're looking for a night out with the family, one last hurrah before school starts, enjoy a nice meal and family time at Red Lobster this weekend. Red Lobster is emphasizing their quality and freshness, and at the same time offering affordability. Put this together with the new comfy and quaint New England environment and the thoroughly trained staff and kitchen and you have the makings of a lovely night out.

