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JAMAICA PLAIN

## Same 10 tables, but extra space bolsters JP restaurant

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(Courtesy Karen Phillipi)

This bar-style expansion to the original Ten Tables restaurant in Jamaica Plain has been welcomed by patrons and staff.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

It has been nearly one year since the unofficial waiting area of a popular neighborhood restaurant was either the sidewalk outside or, during the winter, inside -- parked cars with the engines running and the heat blasting.

Although the number of tables remains true to its name, the addition of a liquor license, bar, and waiting area to the small **Ten Tables** eatery on Centre Street nearly doubled the restaurant's size last December. Since then, business has doubled as well, said founder and proprietor **Krista Kranyak**.

"The expansion has been very warmly received," said Kranyak.

Ten Tables will celebrate the eighth anniversary of its original Jamaica Plain location (there's also a Cambridge location) on Dec. 5. A few weeks later on New Year's Eve, the restaurant will mark its first year since expanding the 24-seat, 10 table dining room with an adjacent, walled-off bar area that can seat another 22 guests.

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“It has allowed for people to be more spontaneous about when they come here,” said Kranyak.

Reservations are recommended for tables in the main dining area, which, during ideal, weekend times, tables are often booked two weeks in advance, she said.

“It started off really local, and the more popular and busier it got, locals had a tougher time getting in,” as residents from places like Brookline, Newton, and Cambridge began to outnumber JP customers, which Kranyak said prompted the opening of the Ten Tables in Cambridge (thought it has five tables more than its name suggests) in February 2009.

“I think a lot of people were charmed by the unique dining room of Ten Tables,” she said. “You feel kind of like you’re in a dining room at home or at a friend’s house for a dinner party.”

But the added location about a six-mile drive north did not slow down business at the Jamaica Plain restaurant, so when a coffee shop two spaces over closed down, Kranyak saw an opportunity to give the business some added breathing room.

Kranyak said she told the owner of a florist shop, located between her restaurant and the then-newly-vacant coffee shop, she would pay for the florist to move his business one door down so that she could take over and attach his shop to her business as a Ten Tables expansion.

The florist agreed, Ten Tables’ 10 tables remained in operation while the work to expand the restaurant was carried on next door, and “I basically doubled my size, but didn’t double my kitchen,” Kranyak said.

That, along with a **new bar menu** added to the existing **dining room menu**, initially posed a challenge for Ten Tables staff.

“But now, we’ve gotten into a groove,” she said.

Kranyak was a waitress at the restaurant that previously occupied the JP location. When the owner of the then eight-table eatery said he was planning to put it up for sale, she scrambled to take over the spot and, at 29 years old, fulfilled her goal of owning her own restaurant before age 30.

The Connecticut native who has lived in the Boston area for the past 15 years, resides in Somerville but said she is looking to move to Jamaica Plain. If all goes according to plan, she will open her third restaurant – a Ten Tables in Provincetown – before age 40.

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(Courtesy Karen Phillipi)

The main dining room, and its 10 tables at the Ten Tables restaurant in Jamaica Plain.

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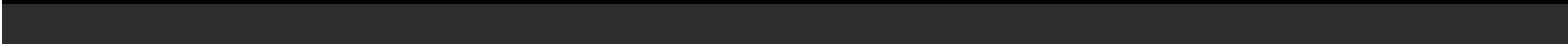
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