

ENCHANTED EXCESS

BILLED AS NEW YORK'S only children's (ages 2 to 85) ice cream parlor, sweet shop, toy store and restaurant, **Serendipity** enjoys great popularity (despite relentless queues for tables). Serious nourishment rarely soars to

Restaurant Report

great heights, but the place is good enough for meals in the omelet style, or savvy, super burgers, sandwiches and foot-long red hots. Comfort foods, likewise

play a leading role: for example, pies—chicken pot, shepherd's, and beef n' sweet potato; barbecue chicken; meat loaf, etc. Menu offerings also include fish and seafood, pasta, and salads.

Serendipity sparkles brightest among the confectionery choices—way-over-the-top drink concoctions like the incredible frozen hot chocolate, pies and pastries embellished with rich gobs of whipped cream, startling architectural ice cream innovations such as



the towering banana split, and on and on.

This festive fun spot, perfect for celebrating birthdays and other frivolous events, is set in an old town house. The front shelters the general store, stocked with everything from yo-yo's to lamps, easily taking up half the main floor dining room space. Upstairs, the dining room is again whimsically festooned with a whole shebang of antiques and pictures, early leftovers and balloons. Tables are very tight, but the effect is more intimate than bothersome.

The menu is hugely diversified. When in doubt, ask the harried but obliging servers. They try hard to please and can lead to the most adventurous items. In addition to luncheons and dinners, there are teas and desserts and late-hour coffee's with desserts.

★★★(Confections);★★(Food). Serendipity, 225 E. 60 St., NY. (212) 838-3531. Lunch, dinner

late night. Entrees \$10.95-\$18. Accepts major CC.

SCOOPS: You're invited to view my newly upgraded web site, and vote your choice in our exciting new restaurant poll. To participate log on to www.sheldonlandwehr.com. ...Tonight's the last chance to catch "The Last Laugh" a riveting one act play deftly directed and performed. Call (212) 719-9500 for tickets and info... Sloan-Kettering cancer fund-raiser launches 2002 "Awards For Excellence" at Hotel Plaza, Apr. 22nd. For tickets 212-874-5457.

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WHAT THE ★★★ MEAN

- 0- Farkackt (Beneath contempt)
- 1- Unremarkable but acceptable
- 2- Good
- 3- Very good
- 4- Outstanding

FOR THE RECORD

Restaurant reviews in this column are in no way paid advertising. Restaurants are selected at Landwehr's sole discretion and praised or panned accordingly. Feedback is welcome. Write Landwehr at 823 11th Ave., NY 10019 or call (212) 956-1882 or check-out his web site @www.SheldonLandwehr.com; Email Sheldon@Sheldonlandwehr.com.