

AS SEEN IN
NY POST

SUMMERTIME

LAURAMAIOGLIO'S **Barbetta** (W. 46 St.), New York's oldest Northern-Italian power restaurant, has the city's most sophisticated sun-drenched and starlit outdoor garden.

Restaurant Report

Romantically wired by a gushing fountain circled with sculptured cherubs, shrubs, lush trees and flowering plants, you can pleasantly pick at risotto tossed with Rose Champagne and Piemonte veal tonne. Theatergoers feel right at home with the price fixed pre-theater dinner.

Ben Benson's (W. 52 St.) enormously popular, albeit obstreperous steak house, offers a much more subdued retreat in the capacious sidewalk terrace protected by an overhanging roof. Here Ben Benson likewise proffers his full range of classic, prime New York steak house fare.

Very cheerfully priced, **Mamma Linda's** (W. 52 St.) intriguingly outfitted back patio boasts the tangy flavors of Argentina and Italy for lunch and dinner.

Diminutive **Marino's** (York Av.) offers sweetly priced fresh-out-of-garden country fare with an Italian accent, set in the backyard with bowers of flowers.

Despite upscale premises and an enchanting miniature outdoor back garden sporting its own wee bar, **Il Gattopardo's** (W. 54 St.) contemporary Southern-Italian food and service cannot command consistent praise. Nevertheless, it's an ideal oasis for libations.

Tocqueville (E. 15 St.) introduced its summer menu featuring Brazilian bouillabaisse. Their out-

door cafe flaunts a casual menu and cocktails.

Hallo Berlin (W. 51 St.) is undeniably New York's best "wurst" restaurant, always a shirtsleeve outdoor beer garden for budgets that bruise easily.

What would summer dining be without **Tavern on the Green** (CPW & 67 St.)? This fixture fits the bill for anyone seeking deftly served luncheons, dinner, dancing and romancing.

Also in Central Park is the **Boat House**, drenched in rustic outdoorsy ambience with sparkling water views. Unfortunately, the conventional fare is a mixed bag that too often fails to fly.

Re-opened **Harbour Lights**, in the Seaport, rises from the ashes of Sept. 11th, again prepared to serve its savory bounty alongside unsurpassed water views.

Long established **Favia Lite**, popular for its light, ethereal Italian fare, offers an inviting sidewalk cafe for taking the air, sipping libations and summer dining.

Mooza (Orchard St.) has again opened its romantic patio complete with splashing fountain. Here are served the same excellent Mediterranean cuisine and potables that you get in the main dining room.

Utsav (W. 46 St.) descends from its mezzanine perch to an open air street plaza underneath, serving spicy, upscale Indian-type fare at comfortable tables, big rattan chairs, tubs of shrubs and potted trees.

For dining in superior simplicity check out the sidewalk cafe at **Seppi's** (W. 58 St.) with French cuisine and vintage wines.

You can scope out the grand atrium dining at W. 53rd Street's **Remi** and partake of its classy Italian food

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and matching wines.

At **Petite Abeille's** (W. Broadway) sidewalk cafe their popular two pounds of steamed mussels couldn't ask for a sweeter setting.

Park Avenue's **St. Bart's** is an umbrella packed paradise supported by a mediocre kitchen.

Nosidam's (Madison Ave.) sidewalk cafe is mostly for people watching and light fare. For the classy stuff you have to eat in the main dining room.

Da Silvano proffers its sought after, well-positioned Greenwich Village sidewalk cafe. Unfortunately, the kitchen is reputationally slipping.

For excellent Japanese fare across from Lincoln Center, discover David Ruggiero's **Sushi-A-Go-Go**. People watching too.

Greek favorite, **Avra** (E. 48 St.) opens the dining room doors in favor of its appropriate luxe courtyard setting filled with umbrellas shading the tables under them for lunch, dinner and weekend brunch.

For tastes of modern Rome at modest prices, try **Arte**, whose graceful Greenwich Village back garden dishes out generous portions to one and all.

Eatables for outriders should include the venerable Brooklyn landmark **Lundy's** of Sheepshead Bay. Though a shadow of its former glory, its still an ideal summer venue with its bay front location and big selection of briny fish, crustaceans and towering raw bar displays, served in bright airy dining rooms

and outdoor terraces.

Clementes Maryland Crab House likewise in Sheepshead Bay in the Venice Marina offers fresh seafood, dockside sunsets and water views.

For ocean front, al fresco boardwalk dining, check out Brighton Beach's **Tatiana**, one of the area's brightest providers of Russian cuisine. Catching the breezes off the Atlantic, it also affords a great opportunity to keep an eye on the passing parade.

Have an outdoor garden blast at **Kenza** (Brooklyn) where there's bona fide North-African family fare.

Hampton Staples: Red Bar (So. Hampton) has risen to the top in just four years....**Almond** (Bridgehampton) opened last spring and appears to be scoring....Think summertime and you can't help thinking **East End Clambakes** in Water Mill.... Check out Amagansett's **Ocean Grillfish & Steak** for just that....A feast for the wise can be found at **Babette's** (E. Hampton).... East Hampton's **Della Femina** celebrates a decade of fine dining.... **Clam Bar** (Amagansett) reflects whatever comes off the boats each day....**Plaza Cafe** (Southampton) is bright, airy, uncluttered with new American cuisine dominated by fresh seafood.

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