

Dubrovnik Premieres in New Rochelle Serving a Taste of Croatia!

For years Jerry Tomic, a native of Croatia on the Adriatic Coast and owner of Top Drawer Custom Cabinetry in New Rochelle, dreamed of bringing a true taste of home to Westchester. The flavorfully melded historic cuisines of Croatia, Italy and the European continent, served in a refined atmosphere.

After months of renovating, he has premiered Dubrovnik on Main Street, Westchester's first restaurant devoted to Croatia, a multi-level 85-seat establishment with outdoor patio, state of the art temperature controlled wine cellar, al fresco rotisserie BBQ, lush herb garden and bar/lounge. Three highly qualified chefs will man the kitchen: one who worked kitchens in Croatia, another who worked in Europe, and yet another, a C.I.A. graduate who worked with Mario Batali. Each will put their talents together on the opening menu that will be printed in English with Croatian dish titles.

Enter the restaurant and there is a bar/lounge to the right with a dozen seats, semi-divided from the main 49-seat dining room. The beige and brown stone and wood motif is reminiscent, Tomic says, of his grandfather's home in Croatia. Handsomely dressed tables and chairs polish the dining room. A ship's wheel on the wall symbolizes the sea. "I love the sea", he says. "As a child I had to ferry from my Island home on the Adriatic almost every day."

In the rear there is an outdoor patio with a hand-crafted rotisserie BBQ just waiting to sear fish, meat and a signature specialty from home: whole BBQ lamb. Grape vines hug the brick walls. Downstairs you can see neat rows of herbs growing in season. In the center is a soothing European style fountain for meditation.

"Fresh food, simply prepared is the Croatian way", he says. At Dubrovnik many of the specialties of the house will be brought, in part, to the present; contemporized in delicious fashion and beautifully plated when brought to the table.

Fine starters include: Poached Shrimp, chilled and served with cocktail sauce; Warm Octopus Salad, with potatoes, extra virgin olive oil and garlic; Steamed Mussels in a light broth; Bay Scallops on the Shell, steamed in white wine, garlic and olive oil; and Aged Cheese with smoked and cured meat platter.

Main courses will include a variety of fish, seafood, meat and poultry options: Fresh Cod Fish Fillet with grapes, olives, pearl onions; a Mama Teresa Special of Lobster, Shrimp, Scallops, Fish, Clams and Mussels steamed in a seasoned broth over pasta; Grilled Rack of Lamb with rosemary-garlic sauce; Grilled Tuna over sautéed spinach with old fashioned rice; and Goulash of Venison Loin with potato dumplings.

Homemade desserts will include: seasonal fruits and pasties, and a Croatian flan called Rozata.

Dubrovnik Restaurant, 721 Main Street, New Rochelle. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner, from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., from 3 pm to 9 p.m. Sundays. Dinner menu appetizers, soups and salads: \$5.75 to \$15.75; main courses: \$18.75 to \$34.75. Lunch menu. Catering and private parties. Bar/lounge. Bar menu. International wine list includes organic bottles. Major credit cards. Proper casual dress. Municipal and valet parking. Reservations accepted; suggested for larger groups. 914-637-3777. www.dubrovnikny.com

(Morris Gut has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for over 25 years. 914-235-6591. gutreactions@oponline.net)

Bistro Rollin Serves Up Community Support this Summer

Pelham's Bistro Rollin, 142 Fifth Avenue has been a supporter of local arts and culture since it opened in 2009. Now it's giving back to patrons of The Picture House and The New York Botanical Garden.

Enjoy a movie at the state-of-the-art Picture House in Pelham and then

come to dinner at Bistro Rollin with the ticket stub. Guests will receive a free ticket for their next film at the Picture House. Bistro Rollin co-owner Barbara Bratone is volunteer Executive Director of this beautifully restored 1920's-era theater that was bought and completely restored by a community not-for-profit organization. It boasts a 21st century sound system and a brand new digital projector. Visit www.thepicturehouse.org for screenings, film times and more information. The dining offer is good through Labor Day, September 2, 2013.

Thanks to a partnership with the nearby New York Botanical Garden and its new "Wild Medicine" exhibit, Bistro Rollin is delighted to grow some community involvement this summer with a special offer to NYBG visitors. Garden patrons who bring their ticket stubs from the Botanical Garden will receive 20% off all their meal at Bistro Rollin that same day (discount does not apply to alcohol). Thanks to a stunning re-creation of an Italian Renaissance garden and interactive stations highlighting the rejuvenating and healing powers of tea, cacao, and tropical juices, Wild Medicine is a sensual exhibit on how cultures around the world rely on plants for everything from medicine to cosmetics. Visit www.nybg.org for details. The dining offer is good through Labor Day, September 2, 2013.



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