

SINGLE GOURMET - METRO NY

Adventures in Friendship & Fine Dining!

SEPTEMBER 2010

You've heard the expression "a month of Sundays"? Well, for some reason we lucked out in September and have a "month of Saturdays". Last month we asked you to "save the date" of Saturday 9/5, Labor Day weekend, for a **BBQ & Band** event. There's been a change in schedule, and that event will now be held on Saturday 9/25. Instead, we are going to do our **second "annual" Arthur Ave outing** on 9/5, Labor Day Weekend. In between we are dining at **Goldfish**.

Last September, at the urging of many of our members, we had our first event on Arthur Ave, at a new restaurant called **Zero Otto Nove**. It was a popular event and everyone loved the restaurant, the menu, and the after-lunch shopping, so here's our "encore" presentation. This time we are going to **ROBERTO**, generally considered the best restaurant, not just on Arthur Ave, but in the entire Bronx--some would argue that it ranks with the best in Manhattan and Westchester too. Roberto Paciullo owns both restaurants, with **Roberto** being the older, more pricey one, and the one that attracts local celebs & bigwigs like Mayor Bloomberg.

The food is amazing. I wish I could have sampled everything.

Hence, the menu we've come up with, which allows us to try as much as humanly possible: 2 antipasti; arugula with buttermilk mozzarella; 2 pastas; 2 entrees; and a dessert plate. Note, this isn't a choice of 2 items, we'll get **everything**. Wine is included, as are cappuccino & espresso. **Zagat's** gives **Roberto** an **EXTRAORDINARY" (26 rating)**, saying "**excellent Italian food prepared using fresh ingredients from the local Arthur Ave shops** justifies the trip to the warm, friendly Bronx standout, and explains the crowds and long lines... [**Roberto is**] **half the price this quality would cost you in Manhattan.**" This is an expensive lunch, to be sure, but "**every dish is well worth the price of admission**" (recent **Yelp** review).

COMING UP...				
Roberto	Saturday 9/4	1:30	Arthur Avenue	\$80
Goldfish	Saturday 9/11	6:45	Ossining, NY	\$59
Band & BBQ	Saturday 9/25	noon	New Rochelle, NY	\$50
Author dinner & discussion	Sunday 10/5	SAVE THE DATE! This event will be in Rye NY. Details next month.		

The following weekend we will swim up-county for a lighter dinner at **GOLDFISH**, a cozy restaurant improbably tucked into a residential neighborhood, in a converted house. I had been hearing about **Goldfish** since they opened several years ago, but was reluctant to go because I was concerned about it being hard to find and parking availability. But after reading and hearing so many positive comments, I decided to visit. I'm glad I did, it's **one of those "hidden gems" that is worth finding**. We really enjoyed our meal, the warm ambiance, and friendly service. True, the location is odd, but it wasn't hard to find; and there is a small parking lot across the street. **It's a really good "neighborhood" restaurant, that's worth the drive even if you aren't "in the neighborhood"**.

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WEBSITE...

Username: gourmet
Password: member

--Karen

SUBURBAN EVENTS

(Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Fairfield)

Roberto - the best in Arthur Avenue!

Tons of rave reviews..."fantastic and pricey"; "excellent...a little rustic and not too pretentious"; "good god, Roberto makes ridiculous food;" "this is ...amazing!"; "a little off the beaten path but incredibly worth it..." (all from Yelp, 2010);

The only negative from last year's event was the difficult parking. We are hoping that on Labor Day Weekend a lot of New Yorkers will be out of town. Regardless, last year everyone found street parking on 187th or 188th street, just be sure to allow time. And car pool where possible. **BRING YOUR APPETITE, and plan some time for SHOPPING!**

Saturday September 4

1:30 Social / 2:00 Lunch

\$80 includes 5 course tasting menu, red & white wines with lunch, cappuccino & espresso.

603 Crescent Ave, **Bronx**, NY 10458
(one block from Arthur Avenue)

GOLDFISH

Our Single Gourmet friend, Mike Casarella, who has planned all of our wonderful Equus holiday galas, is now running Goldfish, his family's restaurant, and he has promised us a great evening. ("great" by "normal" restaurant standards, not "Equus" over-the-top "great"). Goldfish is a "hidden gem: that we are glad we took the time to find-- a charming restaurant with "VERY GOOD" food (Zagat's), attentive service and reasonable prices. Of course there is a lot of seafood on the menu, but there are lots of non-seafood options. A nice Saturday evening event!

Saturday September 11

6:45 Social / 7:30 Dinner

\$59 includes apps during social, 3 course dinner with wine

6 Rockledge Ave, **Ossining**, NY 10562

BAND & BBQ

First let's make clear that the Echo Bay Yacht Club ("EBYC") is **NOT a typical yacht or country club!** It is an old fashioned clubhouse on Echo Bay Island off New Rochelle. Actually, two small islands connected by a footbridge, and 2 large rustic, mostly-windows, buildings. **There is no restaurant, no tennis courts, and no pretensions.** It is simple, charming, old fashioned, pretty. I didn't know that anything like this existed in Westchester, and when I visited, I was smitten. The members were all friendly and seem like a fun group. They plan parties all summer long, and we are invited to their end-of-season bash, a lunch-dinner BBQ, with a great live band, "Back to the Garden". We'll have more details in the next newsletter in mid-September, but **we would like to gauge interest early, so if you might be interested, please let us know.** (No commitment).

Saturday 9/25

noon - about 6 pm

\$50 tentative, to include all day bbq menu & music. No beverages. We'll know closer to the date what exactly is included in their bbq and what we may want to bring in ourselves and then will finalize the price.

Echo Bay "Yacht" Club, Echo Bay Harbor, **New Rochelle**, NY. I95 Exit 16. 10 minute walk from Metro North train station.

From the harbor, the club runs a shuttle to the island, its about a 7 minute boat ride.

NYC EVENTS

FROMAGERIE by DAVID BURKE

There's an interesting back story to how David Burke, one of the most creative chefs around, became involved in Fromagerie. David had his early start working for the brothers who own(ed) Fromagerie, one of NJ's finest restaurants. From there he went on The River Cafe, Park Avenue Cafe, and his own wildly successful restaurants. When the owners of Fromagerie wanted to retire, they looked to David to keep the flame burning. Chef Burke has taken over and has made a great restaurant greater.

Sunday August 22

3:30 Social / 4:30 early Dinner

\$79 includes dinner with glass of wine

26 Ridge Road, Rumson, NJ

If you are looking for ferry information from NYC, or are interested in car pooling, please call us.

PAMPANO

A few years ago, Richard Sandoval, the best Mexican chef this side of the Rio Grande; and Placio Dominto, the best tenor this side of La Scala, opened Pampano--and people have been singing its praises ever since. Its the **highest rated Mex-place in Zagat**, and the only one to feature the cuisine of Vera Cruz. Your dinner price includes a great Margarita or a glass of fine wine. And, weather permitting, we'll dine al fresco on their balcony. Richard has raised the standard of Mexican food here.

Sunday August 29

5:00 Social / 5:45 Dinner

\$80 includes dinner with the drink of your choice

209 E. 49th St. (just East of 3rd Ave)

MOVIE - ADVANCE SCREENING

This is a completely FREE event! Actor Philip Seymour Hoffman makes his directorial debut and co-stars in this highly anticipated film, "Jack Goes Boating". The story is set in NY where a harried married couple introduce two singles with anonymous backgrounds. If you're a fan of Philip Seymour Hoffman you're in for an enthralling evening. He's in line for his umpteenth Oscar nod as an actor, and his first as director. *Jack Goes Boating* opens nationwide 9/17.

Wednesday September 1

6:30 meet in lobby, pick up tickets

7:00 screening

FREE! FREE! FREE!

AMC Loews 19th St.
(809 Broadway at 19th St)

CELLINI

Cellini is one of our long time favorites, a truly Tuscan place with all the sunshine of Italy encapsulated in each dish. Over the years, it somehow keeps getting better, so we keep coming back! We'll start with delicious passed hors d'oeuvres; followed by a Tuscan treat where each dish is melt-in-your-mouth delicious. Its Italy at its sunniest best.

Saturday September 11

7:00 Social / 7:45 Dinner

\$69 includes dinner with glass of wine

65 E. 54th St. (btwn Madison & Park Aves)

"BISTRO"

Are you always searching for a convenient place in the theater district to have a meal that's more than decent? Happily, we stumbled upon Bistro, where we had a pre-theater dinner that almost made going to the show a moot point, the food was so good! On this non-theater evening you'll be able to dine leisurely on the food that makes Parisian bistros so popular, like Moules Mariniere and Hangar steak. There's an outstanding menu and an ambiance that reeks Parisian chic. We're happy to introduce you to this great find!

Sunday Sept 12

5:00 Social / 5:45 Dinner

\$59 includes bistro dinner and glass of wine

120 W. 44th St. (btwn 6th & 7th Aves)

AJ MAXWELL'S STEAKHOUSE

There are many good steakhouses in town, but their prices are "prime". At AJ Maxwell's you get a full course steak dinner and galss of wine for what others might charge for just a steak and baked potato. We realize there are some non-carnivores among you, so there are some delicious eats for you too. But, harking back to the words of Marie Antoinette, "Let them eat steak!".

Sunday September 19

5:00 Social / 5:45 Dinner

\$75 includes dinner with glass of wine

57 West 48th St. (btwn 5th & 6th Aves)

SHUN LEE PALACE

'Our "month of Sundays" concludes with a Chinese banquet at perhaps the finest Asian restaurant this side of the Pacific. Shun Lee Palace is our all time favorite, hosted by our lifelong friend, Michael Tong. As a group, we've usually had to dine at his much larger Shun Lee West, where we had our first ever Single Gourmet dinner over 25 years ago. The East side flagship has been more difficult to schedule because of its limited capacity. We've convinced Michael that we must do another visit and he's agreed to host us on the 26th. You might remember that Michael always opined that Chinese food was one of the world's great cuisines and deserved to be revered along with French food. He's proven his point and you'll be thrilled with this 'gourmet' Chinese banquet, which a far cry from the "one from column A, one from column B" school of Chinese restaurants.

Sunday September 26

5:00 Social / 5:45 Dinner

\$67 includes Chinese banquet

155 E. 55th St. (btwn Lexington & 3rd Aves)

LAST CHANCE FOR LABOR DAY WKND TRIP...**NEW YEAR'S TRIP TO SICILY!!****SEE TRAVEL SECTION PAGE 5**

OTHER EVENTS

If interested, please [contact me](#) to reserve.

Lombari's on teh Bay, Patchogue (LI), NY
Sunday August 22, \$50

La Casa Cafe, Northport (LI), NY
Wednesday September 1, \$55

Monterey Restaurant, Long Beach (LI), NY
Thursday September 23, \$60

TRAVEL

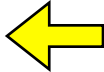
If interested in any trips please [contact me](#)

CHICAGO for Labor Day Wknd!

(organized by the NYC chapter)

Sept 3 - 7 (4 nights)

LAST CHANCE



This will be a GREAT trip....4 nights in a five-star hotel, and an exciting schedule of events. We'll fly to Chicago on United Airlines Friday morning, arriving in time for lunch. We'll stay at the luxurious **Knickerbocker Hotel**, a standout on the **Miracle Mile**. Our weekend will include a guided tour of the **Chicago Art Institute's new Modern Art Building**, designed by world famous architect Renzo Piano, followed by lunch at the smashingly beautiful new top floor restaurant, Terzo Piano. We'll cavort in **Millenium Park**, home of the fabulous Reflecting Bean, plus its gorgeous gardens. We'll take the great **Architectural Boat Tour** that plies the Chicago River and features commentary by members of Chicago's Architectural Society. We'll wind up the weekend with a trip to **Ravinia** for their **Labor Day concert**, a season's highlight. We'll dine at Chicago's outstanding restaurants, with wine at lunch and dinner, included. Even with all this, we've been able to keep the price at virtually the same level as our last Windy City weekend. Our ALL INCLUSIVE price is \$1545 Double Occupancy, \$1845 Single Occupancy.

SICILY for New Year's!

(organized by the NYC chapter)

Dec 26 - Jan 4

This year's annual New Year's trip is to SICILY! Our "home bases" will be Taormina and Palermo, on opposite coasts of the island, with day trips to places like Agrigento, Siracusa, Mt. Etna, Erice, Segesta and Custonaci. In addition to the "usual" sights, we'll see fabulous Christmas displays, including a live Chreche. As befitting "gourmets", we will dine at the best restaurants. Our restaurant list is a succession of great eateries with typical Sicilian specialties and great local wines. The New Year's Eve Cena will be a party as only Sicilians can produce--music, dancing, all night revelry and a traditional dinner.

Our price is truly ALL INCLUSIVE -- airfare on Alitalia, ground transportation when we are in Italy, 3 meals a day (with wine at lunch and dinner), all sightseeing admissions. The price is \$5400 Single occupancy and \$5050 Double occupancy.

Although it seems too early to be thinking of New Year's -- the summer isn't over yet, darn it!--**we do need to know right away if you are interested.**

RESERVATIONS

HOW TO RESERVE *Note: Reservations must be made IN WRITING and accompanied by payment. All reservations require a credit card on file with us to hold your spot, even if you plan to mail a check or pay cash.* (If you don't have a credit card on file with us, give a call so we can take your information).

Website (with a credit card): Reservations form is on the website (in the Members section--Username is 'gourmet' and password is 'member'). Fill out your contact information, enter the name of the event and number of reservations, then "send" the form.

Mail (with check* or credit card): Mail this form, or a note, to 166 Franklin Ave. Harrison, NY 10528. Please be sure to include a check or credit card information (if we don't already have it on file). *Please note, if you are paying by check there is no need to call or email to let us know you are reserving. Just send us your reservation with payment and we'll sign you up.*

Email (with credit card): "Reply" to the email that accompanies the newsletter. *Please specify that you would like to pay by credit card.*

GUEST POLICY

Nonmember guests (who have not attended a Single Gourmet event before) are welcome on a space-available basis, with a surcharge of \$5 for events up to and including \$70; or \$10 for events over \$70.

CANCELLATION POLICIES (unless otherwise stated in the newsletter)

for Suburban Events (Westchester, Fairfield, Rockland, etc)

- 3+ days prior – Full credit.
- 48 to 24 hours prior – 50% credit.
- Within 24 hours prior – No credit.

for NYC and Long Island Events

- 8+ days prior to the event – Full credit.
- Within 7 days prior – No credit.

Exceptions to the above policies are highlighted in the newsletter.

If we are able to fill your spot from a waiting list, you will receive full credit minus a \$5 administrative fee. No cash refunds. Credits must be used within 3 months towards another Single Gourmet event.

A reservation acknowledges that you have read and agree to the terms, and you authorize Single Gourmet - Metro NY to charge your credit /debit card for the event

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

MC or Visa # (if not already on file) _____ -- _____ -- _____ -- _____

Exp. _____ Security Code: _____

Event	Price	Guest name ?	Guest price	Total \$