

## The Top 10 restaurants of 2006

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John Novi, chef and owner of the Depuy Canal House in High Falls, sautés a firey skillet of shallots while preparing a dinner. THR/Tara Engberg

By Bill Guilfoyle

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From January to just last week. From Woodstock to Milford, Pa. (three times, no less!). From cafe to bistro to inn to, well, bistro to inn again. Times Herald-Record dining critic Bill Guilfoyle explored a lot of restaurants in 2006. Here are 10 that scored a four-star overall in The Dish in 2006. Descriptions are from the original reviews.

### **1 Maggie's in the Alley — 39 Main St., Chester; 469-4595**

"The place has great food, reasonable prices and fine service, but is virtually unknown to all but a few lucky locals. One lonely sign points the way, but unless you know where you're going, it's unlikely you'll ever find this tiny treasure." (March 17 review)

### **2 New World Home Cooking — 1411 Route 212, Saugerties; 246-0900**

"First and foremost, it is a true original, difficult to categorize and immensely creative. They serve full-flavored, unique and original food here. The decor is frantic, fun and frenetic. The menu is both a wonder and a puzzle, and the service here, while friendly and laid-back, is among the most expert in the Hudson Valley. Finally, prices are right on the mark." (April 7 review)

### **3 WaterWheel Cafe — 150 Water St., Milford, Pa.; 570-296-2383**

"Milford makes for a great day trip, and the WaterWheel Café makes for a fine dining adventure, as well. The historic buildings are magnificent, their character and appeal priceless. The food here is first-rate; the chef, Susanna Gasiorek, has real talent and discipline. Service is friendly, and prices are very reasonable. The heck with gas prices, this place is worth it." (May 19 review)

### **4 Depuy Canal House — Route 213, High Falls; 687-7700**

"Depuy Canal House was a pioneer in developing Nouvelle American cuisine and continues to deliver innovative cuisine in a gorgeous setting. This restaurant is a classic, a must-try for any fan of fine dining." (June 23 review)

### **5 Resort — 87 DeBruce Road, Livingston Manor; 439-3400**

"We take forever to plot out our meal, since there are so many intriguing dishes and so many ways to put a meal together. ... Resort is quite a place. Owned by Sims Foster, a local boy who worked in restaurants in New York City and returned to his roots, it's a true phenomenon for Sullivan County and may well represent the growth and promise of this region." (July 14 review. Resort has since closed its DeBruce Road location; it may be reopening on Main Street in Livingston Manor sometime soon.)

## **6 Artist's Palate — 307 Main St., Poughkeepsie; 834-8074**

"This place is part restaurant, part art museum. Where are you? SoHo? Tribeca? DUMBO in Brooklyn? How about Main Street in downtown Poughkeepsie! ... The space is wonderful, and it's a great addition to the renaissance of downtown Poughkeepsie. ... The owners have a lot to be proud of." (Sept. 8 review)

## **7 Cliff Park Inn — 155 Cliff Park Road, Milford, Pa.; 570-296-6491**

"The food is both creative and smart, and the prices are most reasonable considering the quality of the cuisine. The service team is well-trained and courteous, and the space, especially the view, is wonderful, both peaceful and serene. This is a special little oasis in Milford, about an hour's drive from Newburgh, but it feels worlds away, a retreat in the woods that's worth a drive from almost anywhere." (Oct. 13 review)

8Bywater Bistro — 419 Main St., Rosendale; 658-3210

"This place is fabulous. The creative, contemporary cuisine is perfect for the modern, stylish space. The service here was top-notch, and the prices and menu offer something for every style and taste. Sleepy Rosendale has another winner; we hope it has a long and fruitful life." (Dec. 1 review)

9Backyard Bistro — 1118 Route 17K, Montgomery; 457-9901

"This is a gem of a restaurant, a tiny wonder that feels more like someone's home than a restaurant. The food here is wonderful, service is friendly and informed, prices are more than reasonable, and the room is a cozy refuge from daily life. If you love food, go. This place shouldn't be missed." (Dec. 22 review)

10River Rock Inn — 554 Route 6/209, Milford, Pa.; 570-296-7177

"Except for the large sign by the road, there are few hints that this is a restaurant, or, as it calls itself, 'An American Bistro.' One look at the menu here and you realize that the label is on target. The selections here are a collection of innovative and interesting dishes with numerous global influences and components." (Dec. 29)

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