
It All Starts With Butter



Plenty of places say they're "the" place to go for fresh foodie fare – straight from the farm to your plate, yet few actually concoct cuisine that satisfies our palate.

Which could be why we're obsessed with the east-end bistro, Table 17. The contemporary space, painted in dark greys and varying shades of black, has a distinct farmhouse feel – with exposed beams, antique harvest tables and accessories like roosters, chalkboards and bronzed rakes decorating the walls.

It's apparent the restaurant's chefs take great care crafting seasonally inspired dishes based on what they find at the market (whipping veggies and fruits into delicious sides, salads and soups).

Fresh herbs are used to flavour mains, made with locally sourced meats, like Steak Frites, Steak Tartare (one of the best in the city!) and Pacific Halibut. Another standout Table 17 creation is the Hot Balls: Three uniquely flavoured risotto balls (mushroom and fontina, goat cheese – with wildflowers and honey – and spiced lamb).

Their wine menu is small, but offers a diverse selection of vintages from Canadian, Californian and Italian producers – each bottle is reasonably priced. What the resto lacks in cellared finds, they make up for with cool cocktails (from classics like Bullshots to invented mixes like Tendulka).

Desserts are particularly sweet, but the best of them all – from our professional palate position – is the Strawberry Shortcake.

Come the weekend, the restaurant opens its doors for brunch, serving up a delicious Neapolitan Eggs (poached in stewed tomatoes and basil) and a Farmer's Breakfast (an incredible scotch egg matched with Ontario cheeses). Pair your meal with a perfectly proportioned Pimm's Cup or Caesar!

Table 17 is located at 782 Queen St. E. and is open for dinner at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Brunch is served from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information visit www.table17.ca or call 416.519.1851.

Sarah Kelsey is a regular contributor for It All Starts With Butter