

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

DINING OUT IN THE BIG APPLE: New York City is indeed the place to dine, with an endless array of choices to please your palate. Needless to say, there is no shortage of kosher restaurants available for readers. Among our favourites are Reserve Cut, Grill 212, 2nd Avenue Deli, La Brochette, Nish Nush. Bravo K kosher Downtown and Pita Express.

For dinner one night we made our first visit to the fabulous Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House (www.del-friscos.com). This is an energetic, luxurious three-story restaurant, located at 1221 Avenue of the Americas. To say we were impressed is an understatement. It was a true culinary experience.

Del Frisco's was established more than 20 years ago. The cornerstone of the menu is aged USDA Prime Beef. They serve only the best hand-cut steaks, chops and freshest seafood, including Australian cold water lobster tails, while using the freshest ingredients to create mouthwatering appetizers, flavorful side dishes and irresistible desserts. Sommeliers are on hand to guide you through their very extensive wine list while the bartenders will lift your spirits with hand-shaken martinis and handcrafted cocktails.

Out of the 12 Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House locations across the country, this one is an iconic (Please turn to page 17)

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(Continued from page 6)

staple and flagship. The 18,000 square foot restaurant boasts floor-to-ceiling windows with breathtaking views of the hustle and bustle of Sixth Avenue, truly bringing midtown Manhattan to life for every diner as Radio City Music Hall's lights shine brightly in the distance. Our table faced the Fox News building. As a news junkie it was amazing to see the latest headlines flash across the screen on the facility's façade.

The restaurant is often packed with the

city's media, business and sports elite and is an ideal locale for visitors looking for a top-gourmet dining experience before or after a Broadway show.

Del Frisco's Steak House also recently unveiled new menu updates to appeal to guests' modernized palates and now offers a refreshed take on the restaurant's classic steakhouse. The new menu includes a variety of elevated classics including Wagyu Beef French Dip, Lobster Roll

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and Sautéed Chicken Picatta, along with eclectic appetizers and sides like Seared Rare Wagyu Beef Carpaccio and Crab Fried Rice It has a wine list of over 1,200 selections.

You can call 212-575-5129 for reservations

One dining establishment that had never been on my radar screen before was Patsy's Italian Restaurant (<http://www.patsys.com>). Well it sure is now! Located at 235 West 56th Street, just a few short blocks from Times Square, this legendary Midtown Manhattan spot had been known for years as Frank Sinatra's restaurant of choice and has become a favorite with countless stars including Al Pacino, Alec Baldwin, Ben Stiller, George and Amal Clooney, David Letterman, Oprah Winfrey and Jennifer Lopez, to name a few.

Founded in 1944 by Pasquale "Patsy's" Scognamillo, Patsy's has

been in its current and only theater district location (in the building next to the original site) since 1954. In almost 70 years of existence, Patsy's Italian Restaurant has had only three chefs; the late Patsy himself, his son Joe Scognamillo, who has been at the establishment since the tender age of seven, and Joe's son Sal Scognamillo, who has been manning the kitchen for the past 29 years. I had an opportunity to meet Sal, an incredibly friendly and personable gentlemen. He greeted me with signed copies of his two cookbooks, one with a foreword by Ben Stiller and the other by Nancy Sinatra. Not only are the recipes and accompanying photos absolutely fascinating but so are the stories about the celebrities who have dined there.

I was dining alone on this evening, as other members of the family
(Please turn to following page)

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enjoyed a show nearby. I started off with orders of fried calamari and fried zucchini. The former was served with tasty marinara sauce on the side while the latter was prepared in the form of French Fries – crispy and delicious. I followed that off with a magnificent chopped salad. For the main course there were so many options. Tony assured me I could not go wrong with the spaghetti and meatballs and he was correct. The meatballs cut like butter and melted in my mouth. By this time I literally had to take a break in order to regain enough of an appetite to sample some of the mouthwatering homemade desserts that passed by my table on a large cart. When I had a hard time choosing, Tony made it easy. He provided me with the equivalent of one piece of cake in three different variations: chocolate mousse, cannoli and Napoleon (custard, whipped cream and puff

pastry). I was glad that I had a nine block walk to meet up with my family, for I desperately needed some exercise after this very special dining experience. It just should not be missed when you are next in New York.

For more infor-

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mation call (212) 247-3491, e-mail anne@patsys.com or log on to www.patsys.com where you can view the entire menu. Sal wanted me to share with readers the fact this is "the only" authentic Patsy's Italian Restaurant in the world

that his family runs. The temptation to franchise might be there, but why mix with perfection?

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. See his travel advice column at www.sandboxworld.com.

BROADWAY CONNECTION

(Continued from page 7)

nominated for a record-breaking 16 Tony Awards, winning 11 including Best Musical at the award ceremony in June. The cast album, which includes an amalgamation of many current musical styles, hit number one on iTunes and was ranked the second best album of 2015 by Billboard.com. Tickets are already sold out until May 2017 at the Richard Rogers Theatre at 226 West 46th Street, with an open-ended run beginning in Chicago in the fall. The national tour is set to begin in San Francisco next March.

with book, music, and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda and direction by Thomas Kail, Hamilton tells the story of the man on America's ten-dollar bill, "the ten-dollar founding father without a father." An orphan immigrant with a talent for writing, Hamilton lived a full and dramatic life, playing a major role in the American Revolution and acting as the first Treasury Secretary of the United States. In hindsight, a hip-hop musical seems like the perfect way to tell his story.

Hamilton's genius is reflected in the musical's creator, who also played the role of Hamilton until recently, Lin-Manuel Miranda. When will the show be coming closer to home? Reports are that David

(Please turn to following page)

So what is this show that has every celebrity and talk show host buzzing? Inspired by the biography "Alexander Hamilton" by the prominent Jewish author Ron Chernow,

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