

DINING OUT

New eateries heat up Hamptons scene

BY PETER M. GIANOTTI
AND JOAN REMINICK
Special to amNewYork

Each year, a number of restaurants compete to become *the* Hamptons hot spots, attracting everyone from A-list celebrities to reality stars to society dames.

In this post-recession summer, expect a broader price range (hallelujah!), plus a greater variety of eateries than in the last couple of years. Here's a look at what to expect:

Four Seasons Caterer
15 Prospect St., Southampton, 631-283-3354, COST: \$\$

The caterer, associated with Clamman Seafood Market, is known for artful themed events, ranging from luaus to clambakes. This season, it becomes a restaurant Tuesdays through Thursdays, specializing in "summer grilling" and American fare.

The Grill on Pantigo
203 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton, 631-329-2600 COST: \$\$-\$\$\$

Kevin Penner, of The 1770 House, transformed the home of the stylish but short-lived Wei Funinto into a warm, American spot suitable for "everyday" dining. Expect steaks, burgers, meatloaf, shellfish cocktails and local seafood, sauteed or grilled.

Bostwick's Chowder House
277 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton, 631-324-1111, bostwickseh.com COST: \$\$

The owners of the former Bostwick's on the Harbor have taken over the space that was Cherrystones and are featuring a moderately priced roster of seafood dishes, raw bar items, rolls and sandwiches. And, of course, the namesake house-made chowders: clam (New England and Manhattan), corn and lobster bisque. Seating is both in- and outdoors.



Serafina East Hampton

104 N. Main St., East Hampton, 631-267-3500, COST: \$\$-\$\$\$

Manhattanites Vittorio Assaf and Fabio Granato head to the Hamptons, bringing casual Italian cuisine with them. (See The Dish for more.)

Clemente's Maryland Crab House
448 West Lake Dr., Montauk 631-668-6677 COST: \$\$

This popular Sheepshead Bay eatery will open a branch on the site of a former Havana Beach Club. You'll find crab chowder, an "angry" lobster roll and an all-you-can-eat blue crab deal at \$29.95 a person.

Pizzetteria Brunetti

103 Main St., Westhampton Beach, 631-288-3003 COST: \$-\$\$

Michael Brunetti and son Jason — who interned at NYC pizzeria Motorino — will debut an authentic Neapolitan-style pizzeria. Toppings will be local and seasonal.

Race Lane

31 Race Ln., East Hampton, 631-324-5022 COST: \$\$-\$\$\$

This American restaurant with some continental touches, moves into the space best remembered as the original Laundry locale.

Gianotti and Reminick are *Newsday* staff writers. Lucy Cohen Blatter contributed to this story.

COMINGS & GOINGS

● **Wild Thyme** in Southampton has a new chef, Alex Algieri, and approach, emphasizing "farm-to-table" sustainable products.

● **The Laundry** in East Hampton and 75 Main in Southampton have closed.

● Also gone: Ed



Wild Thyme is getting a new chef and approach. (PHOTOS: GORDON M. GRANT)

Kleefield's quartet — Prime 103 in East Hampton; JXL Bistro and Grappa in Sag Harbor; and Madame Tong's in Southampton.

zine's Grub Street blog reported that chef Laurent Tourondel is in negotiations to take over the Grappa space. He told the blog "no deal is signed yet."

THE DISH



WITH LUCY COHEN BLATTER

Wondering where to eat on Long Island this summer, we immediately thought,

Where would Gail Simmons eat?



Here are the "Top Chef" judge's picks for great spots in the Hamptons area:

1 The Surf Lodge (MONTAUK) Helmed by ex-"Top Chef" contestant Sam Talbot, this spot specializes in seasonal produce and local seafood.

2 Duryea's Lobster Deck (MONTAUK) Simmons recommended going for fresh lobster on the water at sunset.

3 Jani's (MONTAUK) This was Simmons' pick for a quick breakfast or take-out lunch.

4 La Fondita (AMAGANSETT) This "casual, amazing Mexican" is known for Baja-style fish tacos.

5 Harvest at Fort Pond (MONTAUK) Simmons described this spot, which specializes in large portions perfect for sharing, as "so good."

In other Hamptons news ...

It seems like a match made in heaven: Upscale NYC Italian restaurant Serafina hits East Hampton this summer. Owners Vittorio Assaf and Fabio Granato told us they've been looking to open a Hamptons location for years, and found one that was "absolutely Serafina" at the former site of Matto.

There will be a front terrace and side patio for alfresco dining. A pergola is coming soon.

The menu will be very similar to the Manhattan locations, with the addition of "local, fresh fruits and vegetables, local fish and local wines."

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