



F.A.B.'s dining room is dressed up with linen tablecloths and warm yellow walls.

Restaurants We Love

F.A.B. (FRENCH AMERICAN BISTRO) IN MOUNT KISCO

By Karen Croke
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We all know the days of three-martini lunches, spent over an hour or two on an expense account, are a thing of the past. But you still have to eat lunch, don't you?

Honestly, even if you're on a budget, there are only so many days you can spend sitting at your desk with a brown bag before the urge for an interesting salad or a big, juicy burger served at a linen-topped table by a smiling waiter crowds out your sensible nature.

That's where F.A.B. comes in. The acronym stands for French American Bistro, and this Mount Kisco restaurant definitely provides an ample dose of both cultures. It's a delightful spot for dinner — it recently began serving breakfast, too — but it's also an option for lunch. Any type of lunch.

With polished wood floors, dark trim, and linen-covered tables that set the tone for serious conversation, F.A.B.

is just proper enough for a serious business meal with a colleague or prospective client. On the other hand, cheerful deep yellow-colored walls, a long banquet and well-spaced tables for two make it great for a casual bite with a college-aged son home from school or a gossipy catch-up between friends (maybe over a glass of wine?). When the weather is warm, French doors open to the sidewalk, bringing in the passing parade.

As the French say, "Chacun a son gout," which means "each has his own taste." And there is something for many different tastes here, especially at lunch. And although the surroundings lean toward the Gallic, on the menu, the American creeps back in: there's grilled chicken, Cobb salad, and of course, a burger.

But if you're here for bistro fare, you can't go wrong. Want just a salad? There's a Roquefort piled with roasted beets and can-

died walnuts, or try F.A.B.'s take on the classic Nicoise, made with seared ahi tuna, new potatoes and haricot verts. You can also build your own crepes from more than two dozen fillings. There's French onion soup, and Moules Frites — mussels with matchstick fries — that are fragrant with fennel and shallots.

The menu has sandwiches, too, like Le Merguez, which is spicy lamb sausage, roasted red peppers and spicy mustard on ciabatta bread. But if you're heading for a French-style bistro for lunch, you must, at least once, get a Croque Monsieur, a monster sandwich made from toasted country bread, ham, cheese and bechamel sauce. Or try the distaff version, known as Croque Madame, which comes with a sunny-side up egg. On either, the deliciousness of the toasted bread, the gooey goodness of the cheese and rich bechamel cannot be understated. Sandwiches and entrees come with fries or a

IF YOU GO

F.A.B.: 222 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 914-864-1661, www.fabbistro.com

Open for breakfast 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Monday-Friday; lunch 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; brunch 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sunday; dinner 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 4-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 4-9 p.m. Sunday.

Lunch for two (excluding tax, tip and alcohol): \$25

Good to know: Once the weather warms up, there are a handful of outdoor tables, perfect for sidewalk dining.

lightly dressed mesclun.

The service at F.A.B. is friendly, the pace is quick at lunch, because really, who does have more than an hour to spare? Best of all, the tab won't send you scurrying back to your brown bag anytime soon. Most choices on the lunch menu are between \$10 and \$15.



Among the French-style sandwiches at F.A.B. is the Croque Madame, made from toasted country bread, ham, cheese and bechamel sauce. PHOTOS BY JOE LARESE/THE JOURNAL NEWS



F.A.B.'s colorful take on the classic Nicoise salad includes seared ahi tuna, new potatoes and haricots verts.

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The interior of Cafe of Love in Mount Kisco. LIZ JOHNSON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

PLAN B

Restaurant 121 Although it's off the beaten path for a business lunch, this New American is worth the trip, especially once the wraparound porch opens for dining. The view is pristine, and so is the menu, which fuses Asian, American and Italian influences. Look for a dependable array of choices, including bok choy salad, juicy burgers, wood fired pizzas, and pastas. 121 Dingle Road, South Salem, 914-669-0121. www.121restaurant.com

Quaker Hill Tavern: A great family option where the burgers come many ways — there are veggie burgers, salmon or tuna burgers or regular burgers. Dining without kids in tow? The Quaker Hill Salad is loaded with grown-up goodies: mesclun, dried cranberries, walnuts, grape tomatoes and crumbled blue cheese. 61 N. Bedford Road, Chappaqua, 914-238-6416. www.quakerhilltavern.com

Cafe of Love: Our current governor, Andrew Cuomo, has dined here so it should be good enough for your boss, too. A pretty dining room and a new spring menu are two more reasons to come for lunch. Look for a turkey and brie croissant, white asparagus soup, and steak au poivre salad. 38 E. Main St., Mount Kisco, 914-242-1002. www.cafeofloveny.com

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