

La Petite Auberge
116 Lexington Avenue (at East 28th Street)
New York, NY 10016

Ooh La La! My New Favorite Restaurant!

Situated on an unassuming corner of Lexington Avenue and 28th Street is a little restaurant with a red awning called La Petite Auberge. Step inside and you will feel transported to a classic French bistro in Paris. Quiet, elegant but not stuffy, this is easily the most sublime French restaurant I have been to in New York and right now my favorite restaurant in New York, period!

Start out with a cocktail or two at the small bar as Marcel, one of the co-owners, serves up drinks along with genuine French charm. The restaurant is wood paneled and beautifully lit, with the sounds of Edith Piaf in the background. This is definitely the kind of place where they would not tolerate screaming two-year-olds.

Of course, all of this atmosphere and good service would mean very little if it was not matched by the superb cuisine. The menu is full of classic French dishes like Paté du Chef, Escargots de Bourgogne, Coquille Saint Jacques, and Le Filet de Boeuf Bordelaise. I had the daily fish special, Dover Sole, which was buttery, lemony, and absolutely delicious. It was complemented perfectly by crisp haricots vert and simple boiled fingerling potatoes. My friend Denis had the Les Côtes d'Agneau Vert Pré (broiled lamb chops), which he loved, served with the aforementioned haricots vert and crisp frites.

We skipped dessert to instead indulge in a favorite that Denis introduced me to years ago – Funny Coffee, which is a simple yet transcendent concoction that entails pouring a snifter of Grand Marnier into a cup of hot coffee with cream or half and half. Intoxicating, warming, and the perfect end to a perfect meal on a cold winter day.

Le Petite Auberge got everything right. I could easily eat here everyday for two weeks and never tire of the menu choices. For lunch or dinner, a romantic special occasion, or just because, Le Petite Auberge is, as the French might say, *tres awesome!*

Click below for more info:

<http://www.lapetiteaubergeny.com/>

