

Manatus
340 Bleecker Street
New York, NY 10014

Upscale West Village Diner with Loyal Following

Manatus is an upscale diner that has become something of a legend in the West Village. The place is hopping on weekends during brunch and offers some better than average coffee shop fare.

I particularly recommend Manatus for breakfast – almost any egg dish is a safe bet. I am partial to two eggs sunny-side up with their wonderfully savory sausage. At brunch, you get coffee and choice of mimosa or Bloody Mary, the latter being quite good. Burgers are great here, the chef's salad is so big it takes up half the table, and they have one of the best chicken salad sandwiches in the city, delicious just on rye or as a triple-decker club.

I had one bad experience when I ordered eggs Benedict, which is usually excellent here, except on this one occasion when the eggs were practically hardboiled. I sent it back without any fuss and the eggs were cooked nice and runny, but there was too much hollandaise sauce. So, by all means, order the eggs Benedict, just specify how you want the eggs cooked and perhaps tell them not quite so much sauce.

I have only had dinner at Manatus once and I suggest you choose your entrée wisely. I ordered fish, which was fresh but bland and loaded with bones. The rule is usually this: don't order Italian food unless you are at a good Italian restaurant and don't order fish unless you are at a good seafood restaurant. For most other things, though, Manatus can be trusted.

Like everything else, prices have gone up. Brunch used to be \$9.99 but it's now \$14.95, so a simple meal of bacon and eggs with coffee and a Bloody Mary can easily run you \$20.00 with tax and tip, no bargain, especially when you consider how reasonable the Malibu Diner in Chelsea is.

Still, this is a great place with a relaxing atmosphere and friendly service. For the last few years, I have had my Christmas day lunch here since it's one of the few places open and it's not crowded. If I can, I would like to continue this tradition every Christmas.

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<http://www.manatusnyc.com>

