

So Far, Yet So Near

A Restaurant Review by Graham Crawford

The food.

Steak frites. Boudin noir. Sweetbreads. Brandade de morue. Lapin aux olives. Tarte au citron. Plus. Plus.

The setting.

An 1854 cut-stone terrace townhome with elegant, 10-foot tall windows overlooking a vibrant urban street.

The decor.

Sleek. Modern. Charming.

The city.

Paris? Lyon? Maybe Montreal?.

Actually it's Hamilton. As in Ontario. As in 150 James St. South, to be exact. It's called **Bistro Parisien** and it opened its doors in July, after months of work that saw the complete reinvention of the space. Oh, did I mention that it's excellent!

Since their almost stealth-like opening, Kate and Steven, the owners, have been sharing their passion for things French with the now hundreds of patrons who've come through the doors of their jewel of a restaurant in one of the most charming areas of Hamilton - the stone terraces on James St. South. Some are already regulars. That's right. It's that good.

The menu, while perhaps not as extensive as some other restaurants in town, is very well-designed, making the misery of choice yours to bear. And such misery. From fresh mussels cooked in a broth redolent of capers and olives; to a tantalizing trio of salads that include celeri remoulade, chick peas and lentils; to moist and succulent pieces of rabbit on a bed of olive infused potatoes. Desserts include tarte au citron and profiteroles.

C'est superb!

What does all this Gallic-style gastronomy cost? Well, **Bistro Parisien** lives up to its stated mission, "To provide traditional French bistro fare, well prepared, at reasonable prices." You know you've got a winner when the food, the decor, and the prices separately, and together, make diners enter and leave with a smile on their faces. So, if you're in the mood to travel to France for a few hours one evening, have a walk over to **Bistro Parisien**. Along the way, while you won't be wandering the streets of Paris, you will be experiencing one of the Hamilton's most beautiful neighbourhoods - the Durand.

Bistro Parisien, the newest addition to the dining scene in the Durand, is open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner until 11:00 p.m. How sophisticated is that?

For reservations (which are recommended), call 905.546.0003. If you don't get an answer, do as the message suggests and leave your information.

A Fence with Character



Nature's
RIGHT HAND
Landscaping and Cast Iron Fencing

1-866-674-3003

www.naturesrighthand