

GO T H A M

NOVEMBER 2005

MOST WANTED Food & Beverage

DI ANIMATING THE PARTY

Chills & Thrills

How to keep warm this fall? Try these hot eateries that'll provide comfort when November winds blow.

Cercle Rouge Resto Bar Americain (241 West Broadway, 212-226-6156) Channel Alain Delon, star of the 1970 French thriller *Le Cercle Rouge*, at this casual but *bien chic* bistro of the same name, manned by several Orsay alums. Air-kiss host-with-the-most Fabrice Warin in the tiled bar (try a Fraisini, made with Prosecco and muddled strawberries), then settle into a hunter-green banquette for one of Executive Chef David Feau and Chef Mike Wurster's starters, like pan-seared crab cakes with Parmesan mustard, a daily selection of oysters, or spicy chicken wings with a blue-cheese dipping sauce. Next up might be the blackened hangar steak, fish and chips, or a simply grilled meat or fish paired with myriad sauces. While Blossom Dearie croons, take in the surroundings (potted palms, vintage black-and-white photos, smoky mirrors, and a sexy red Folies Bergères-style dining room) and the exceptionally good-looking waitstaff. Finish off with any of the mini custards or the roasted apple tart with vanilla ice cream. We're smitten.—J. OLIVER NIXON

The Diner (44 Ninth Avenue, 212-627-2230)

A small-town diner in the heart of the hip Meatpacking District, The Diner makes the best of both vibes. Open 24 hours, it's a great spot for reasonably priced food before or after hitting the town. Start with a goat cheese salad—a warm cake of cheese sitting atop excellently seasoned fresh field greens—or get decadent with cheddar-and-jack macaroni and cheese baked in an individual dish. For the main course, try the authentic Southern fried chicken, which is soaked in buttermilk, dipped in flour, cumin, and paprika, and served with a side of honey, chive-whipped potatoes, and peppery spinach. Finish with a brownie sundae, or just keep drinking Mudslide Shakes, an adult take on a childhood treat.—WILL MORGAN



Onion rings adorn just about every entrée at The Diner.

his
Season

EXCLUSIVE!
Everyone
Following, the
The Devil
ears Prada

PLUS
ours with
Centerfold
Bartirromo