CANTEENS

SUMMERTIME, AND THE EATIN’ IS EASY

BY DANIEL CAPPELLO

If there is one thing about New York City dining this time of year that can get quite tiresome quite quickly, it is the pressure to have to eat outdoors. Restaurants try to trick us into thinking they were made for en plein-air eating by cramming a row or few of wobbly tables on a cracked sidewalk abutting a sewer line. Friends fall for it and urge us to take part: “The weather’s so nice, let’s eat outside!” But San Diego we are not. Nor are we Paris, even. Our elements aren’t as forgiving year-round, and our boulevards aren’t as expansive. Wait, we don’t even have boulevards. No, instead we have narrow streets and avenues, hot pavement that’s perpetually being jackhammered or in disrepair, and an unrelenting traffic grid of taxis, Uber, ambulances, fire trucks, livery drivers, commuters, and bikers (whose expanding access on the roads continues to squeeze out whatever precious space there was to begin with). We’re congested, we’re polluted, and we’re under constant assault by sirens. I’ve had the taste of my tagine of chicken ruined one time too many by a passing street sweeper to ever want to sit outside again, thank you.

Now, however, there’s a happy choice for those craving a taste of the outdoors for dinner: Alta Linea, the Chelsea-based Italian hotspot that’s been conceived as an expressly al-fresco eatery. Occupying the front courtyard and garden of the High Line Hotel, Alta Linea is a seasonal pop-up from Epicurean Group, known for other downtown favorites dell’anima, L’Artusi, L’Apicito, and Anfora. With more than sufficient space (especially in comparison to the contrived window-hugging pens cited...
out of pedestrian pathways elsewhere), green hedges blocking out (more or less) any hint of hurried street life on the other side of the fence, a manicured garden of pretty purples and greens, and white graveling that feels somewhat like the Jardin des Tuileries under your feet, this is how outdoor dining should be.

Executive beverage director Joe Campanale brings the Italian culture of aperitivi to the heart of West Chelsea with a beverage menu that recalls summer along the Amalfi Coast (or Via Veneto, at least). Reclining on a comfy, striped pillow that could have been plucked from the summer clubhouse or yacht—with Aperol spritz in hand—you’ll be fast to forget office politics and deadlines that loom beyond the shabbery. At Alta Linea, a European sensibility keeps things decidedly cool, relaxed, and unfrenzied. The frozen negroni—dangerously good—is sure to keep the clubby bar on one whole side of the garden hopping.

Ample (and amply appetizing) small plates complement the aperitivi cocktail culture at Alta Linea. Crispy artichokes seem to be all the rage on menus these days, but that’s no reason to skip them here. The burrata is creamy enough to melt your stress away in the first bite (just be sure to place your order before the sun goes down, lest you be told they’ve run out for the evening). Pork meatball polenta with bacon, tomato, and parmesan is rich and savory enough to carry you through several cocktails, though the frisso misto of calamari and rock shrimp with lemon aioli can be a bit too frisso for the salt-averse.

Secondi, or main dishes, are sparse, but cover most of the food groups: a branzino cooked in paper, an herb-roasted chicken, and a burger that’s arguably the best of this bunch. You could almost skip the secondi altogether and keep dabbing at the plentiful spreads on the flatbread plate (the cannellini with smoked paprika should be bottled and sold separately). If you’re indulging a fantasy of being somewhere slightly more Mediterranean, order one of the Italian rosés or the Ribolla Gialla and savor the "Borough Market" grilled cheese sandwich (mixing white cheddar and Gruyère) along with the grilled summer beans salad (with a delectable preserved-lemon vinaigrette, chilies, feta, pine nuts, and mint). After all, nothing says summer quite like summer bean salad—or a vintage gelato cart, with housemade gelati and sorbetti available by the scoop or in ice cream sandwiches. Now that’s summer dining worthy of a "salutato!"

This page, from top left: Italian summer drinks, like the spritz and negroni, are a major draw; the branzino in cuttolo; serving up pancini (fried salumi, fontina, and sage bolls); the menu. Opposite page: Al fresco is the only dining option. Alta Linea: 180 Tenth Ave. (at 20th St.). in the High Line Hotel Garden. Open daily from 5 p.m.; no reservations. Follow Twitter.com/altilineanyc for weather updates; 212.933.9785.
THE INDUSTRY OF fashion is often dismissed as a cold, unfeeling place where aesthetics are the only currency of value and something like a conscience will only be a burden. While there is abundant evidence of that in every Project Runway episode, there is also plenty to prove that the best in the business know how to use fashion to reveal their own humanity. The Tin Man will be the first to tell you that his accessories line took off only after he got that heart.

This month's cover girl, Amanda Hearst, is one such humanitarian. Because of her last name and good looks, she has always attracted attention, but rather than use it to promote herself, she raises the conversation around her to a higher purpose: animal rights. On top of being a long-time advocate for the Humane Society of the United States, she started her own organization, Friends of Finn—Finn being this month's "cover dog."

Since its founding in 2010, Friends of Finn has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to stop puppy mills. For those who don't know, puppy mills are commercial breeding facilities where females are bred continuously, puppies are taken from their mothers too early, and the dogs are often kept in squalid conditions. (Unfortunately, those cute little rascals you see frolicking in the front window of West Village pet shops often come from puppy mills.) Thanks to Friends of Finn, there has been increased awareness of these mills, and Hearst herself has gone in and rescued dogs from these horrible conditions.

So while you flip through the gorgeous glossy pages of our cover shoot and see Finn's cute little face peering at you, consider becoming one of his friends. Donate to Friends of Finn. ♦

ON THE COVER: Amanda Hearst—in an Oscar de la Renta dress; Harry Winston earrings, bracelets, and necklace; Van Cleef & Arpels ring; and Fabergé ring—with her dog, Finn, at the High Line Hotel for our cover story, "A Day of Fashion With Finn," photographed by Julie Skarratt.
A DAY OF FASHION WITH FINN

PRODUCED AND STYLED BY DANIEL CAPPELLO AND ELIZABETH MEIGHER
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JULIE SKARRATT

FOR AMANDA HEARST, orange is the new black. No, the beautiful, blonde granddaughter of William Randolph Hearst is not headed off to prison, but she does don a required orange vest when participating in the recovery of sorrowfully inhumane, overpopulated puppy mills. After visiting animals that had been rescued from a Mississippi puppy mill in 2010, Hearst discovered that her adorable little pup, named Finnegan, had come from one of these contemptible mills. With the help of the Humane Society of the United States, Amanda founded Friends of Finn, an organization comprised of young leaders committed to stopping the barbaric treatment of dogs in puppy mills.

In 2012, Hearst enlisted in her second puppy mill rescue in North Carolina with the help of friend and fellow FOF committee member Georgina Bloomberg. Their efforts resulted in the freeing of 88 puppies and one pregnant cat. Bloomberg, an award-winning professional equestrian and long-time supporter of animal welfare, lives with five rescue dogs herself—Hugo, Mabel, Mona, Chopper, and Stella—and a rescue pig named Wilbur. She is also a member of the Equine Protection Council of the Humane Society of the United States.

This coming November, these two young animal-welfare activists will co-chair the Humane Society of the United States’ “To The Rescue! New York” benefit at Cipriani 42nd Street, which will raise support for the rescue, care, placement, and potential rehoming of thousands of animals in need due to disaster, cruelty, or neglect. On January 15 of next year, the HSUS will honor Amanda Hearst for her work with Friends of Finn at the annual “To The Rescue! From Cruelty to Kindness” benefit in Palm Beach. James Berwind and Therese Mersentes will co-chair the event, which will take place in the Circle Ballroom at The Breakers.

In these pages, Amanda, accompanied by her adopted Dachshund/Chihuahua mix, “Finn,” was photographed for Quest in the latest fall fashions at the High Line Hotel in New York City. Carved out of the red-brick General Theological Seminary complex in Chelsea, the unique, collegiate gothic-style hotel boasts a mosaic-tiled lobby; soaring, stained glass windows; and cloistered courtyards. The 60 plush rooms housed inside the landmarked structure are furnished with Victorian and Edwardian antiques and include clever details such as wicker 1920s dial telephones, period art, Tiffany-style lamps, and majestic Oriental carpets. When visiting, don’t miss coffee in the courtyard served from the 1960s Citroën truck parked outside, or a glass of post-work bubbly on the leafy terrace of Champagne Charles. Given that the hotel is notably pet-friendly, you might even spot a friend of Finn’s—or two. —E.M.
This page: Carolina Herrera dress, Stuart Weitzman heels, Harry Winston earrings and necklace, Verdura cuff, and Roberto Coin ring. Opposite page: Ralph Lauren Black Label sweater, Lela Rose skirt, Jimmy Choo heels, with necklace, bracelet, and rings all by Wempe.
Oscar de la Renta dress, Verdura earrings, Van Cleef & Arpels necklace, Wempe rings, and Jimmy Choo heels. All beauty styling: Jacob Schmidt for Serge Normant at John Frieda (hair); Cindy Rodriguez, NARS Lead Makeup Stylist (makeup). Fashion associate: Alex R. Travers.
This page: Turtleneck, skirt, and shoes by Ralph Lauren Collection; earrings and bracelet by Van Cleef & Arpels; yellow diamond ring by Harry Winston; diamond ring by Roberto Coin. Opposite page: Dress by Valentino with earrings and ring by Fabergé.
Opposite page: Oscar de la Renta dress; Harry Winston earrings, necklace, and two bracelets; Van Cleef & Arpels diamond ring; Fabergé diamond, pink diamond, pink sapphire, tourmaline, and spinel ring; Manolo Blahnik heels; Edie Parker clutch.

This page: Salvatore Ferragamo sleeveless turtleneck; Nanoo skirt; Jimmy Choo shoes; Kara Ross earrings, ring, and large cuff; Seaman Schepps link bracelet.