

The Fine Print

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Everybody has a different reason for choosing their favorite restaurants. Mine is coffee. When I have a delicious cup, everything seems just right. And this year, I have already found two new favorites.

On New Year's Day, my husband and I went for brunch with friends and imagine my delight when my café decaf latte was set before me in a bowl! The restaurant is called Le Jardin du Roi, a little French bistro in Chappaqua. It was so friendly, certainly not 'stuffy' and very reasonably priced. For our holiday 'le petit déjeuner' we asked the waitress for her recommendations. Everything sounded so French and so delicious that we decided to all have something different.

We started with French toast (of course!) and I don't know how they cooked it – but I think that the baguette bread may have been one of their secrets. We also had a crock of French onion soupe (of course) and an omelette. My dish, called 'euf du roi', was a poached egg on top of a goat cheese potato cake served over ratatouille. The waitress told us that one of the favorite dishes at the bistro was the 'les hamburgers' (certainly not a staple at many French restaurants). We had the 'hamburger et sauce diablo' and it was loaded with mushrooms, goat cheese and a spicy tomato sauce – with an egg on top. And the pommes frites (French fries) were amazing!

After sampling everyone's food that day, I decided that I all of them were a favorite and now I certainly know where to get a great bowl of café and enjoy brunch, lunch or dinner. Le Jardin du Roi, 95 King Street in Chappaqua. Info: 914 238-1368.

My next cup of favorite café this month was at Cidade Café & Bakery – it was like a taste of Europe in downtown Ossining. The cappuccino was amazing! My husband and I went there for dessert and we had the most delicious cake called pod de lo – an authentic Portuguese cake that reminded me so much of the sponge cake that my grandmother made. Other pastries and cookies that Owner Mara Silva bakes on site were all so tempting including the minhola, custard rolls and the best brownies ever! Open for breakfast, lunch and dessert, the Cidade Café, 123 Main Street in Ossining. 914 402-5551.

If my days were all about coffee and food, I can certainly say that my year has started on a very good note.