

THE BATTERY PARK CITY BROADSHEET

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Ali Webster, manager Merchants NY Café

MERCHANTS NY CAFÉ

Washington Street south of Liberty Street may seem a strange place for a 140-seat outdoor café, but sitting in one of the 44 indoor seats of the European bistro-style Merchants NY Café one can see the potential even in December. Ninety Washington Street is set back, so a comfortably sized plaza with west sightlines is formed on its Rector Street side, where tables, chairs, orange umbrellas, and outdoor heating lamps like those used in Europe await spring temperatures.

Diners shouldn't wait until spring to try out the restaurant, however. Cocktails are delicious. There's a lush tuna tartar punctuated with sake-marinated cucumbers, warming soups, interesting sandwiches including a Cuban-style roast pork, ham, swiss, and pickle panini, and a yummy egg salad perked up with truffle oil. There's aged NY strip steak and cod roasted in a wood oven that viewers from the street mistake for a fireplace. Ciao Bella ice creams and sorbets, and NY cheesecake are the desserts.

Manager Ali Webster says, "The great thing about a Euro café is you can grab and go or have a coffee or glass of wine, take advantage of our wireless hookup and stay all day." Emphasizing the neighborhood feel, Ms. Webster offered a free dessert to the first resident to come to dinner in pajamas.

Merchants NY Café
212 363-6000
90 Washington Street
Monday - Friday, Noon-9 PM

e-mail macu@nyc.n.com