

The Mouth

By Nanci Tangeman

Giving the menu the bird

De Witte Uyl
Frans Halsstraat 26, 670 0458
Tues-Sat 18.00-01.00
Cash, PIN, credit cards

I'm never sure whether I want to watch a bird or eat it. I can gaze at an azure magpie outside my office window for hours (especially when I'm on deadline). And I don't snicker like a 14-year-old boy when someone tells me he just saw a couple of great tits. It's also true that on my computer is a list of almost every bird that's passed in front of my binoculars.

But sometimes that list of birds starts looking more like a menu: sage-grouse, ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey. And it makes me feel just a little bit guilty (and hungry).

So, during a very busy month when I haven't taken the time to watch the wild fowl, Partner-in-all-things-avian and I decide to go out and eat some.

De Witte Uyl (The White Owl) has been one of my favourite Amsterdam restaurants for a decade, long before I became a twitcher. Owners Annemieke den Uijl (who's not afraid to discuss her Marlies Dekkers undergarments) and Nick White, along with head chef Han Schuiten, cook exclusively with organic meat, and, as much as possible, organic vegetables.

The candlelit restaurant, elegantly decorated with 1920s furniture and big vases of dark sunflowers and a flock of (sculpted) owls, manages to be intimate yet comfortable for a garrulous party of five like ours. It also offers a dozen dishes, plus dessert.



The vegetables are fresh and crunchy and the garlic and ginger lend a slight Asian flavour.

There's no differentiation between starters and mains. You choose two dishes in any order, and a dessert, for a set price (€39.50).

I head straight for the birds on the menu. I start with boned quail (probably *Coturnix coturnix*, according to my bird guidebook) on wok-fried peas in a pot, with haricots verts. The vegetables are fresh and crunchy, and the garlic and ginger lend a slight Asian flavour. For my second course I opt for the duck special (probably a domestic Muscovy) served with a tinge of remorse.

My friends stick to sea and land. The scallops are plump, served on small pancakes with samphire (sea parsley) and puréed pumpkin and basil. The ravioli is homemade with powdered hazelnuts, which gives it an earthy flavour. Annemieke warns us that the lamb steak has a strong cumin taste. Two friends try it anyway: one would have preferred less cumin, but both clean their plates.

We choose red and white wine to match the collection of courses: Bodega Seniorio de Cruces Albarino 2007 (€25) and Spice Route Pinotage 2006 (€35).

No birds for dessert, but I do get the chance to try to ID some rare Professor Grunschabel ice cream flavours. With no guidebook to help me I guess incorrectly, but enjoy them anyway. The hazelnut mousse is a hit with our crowd, as is the mountain of chocolate (three species—white, milk and dark) that accompanies the coffee and tea.

The night's culinary journey has been a bit of a guilt trip, but I'm motivated to dust off my binoculars and head to the forest in the morning. Who knows? I just may work up an appetite. —

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BANDMATES WANTED! - rockstonescissors- (Indielectro) is looking for bandmates: drummer & bass and maybe synthplayer! myspace.com/rockstonescissors or sternshower@web.de all easy going, just give me a shout and we meet for a jam! THX Michael

SAXOPHONE LESSONS Master graduated at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam with wide experience in teaching, gives saxophone lessons. Beginners, intermediate and advance levels. Different styles and a lot of fun! Spoken language can be Eng, Dutch, French, Italian. First lesson no charge! 0627526558 saxlesson@yahoo.com

THE ARTS

ART CLASSES Small friendly group in relaxed atmosphere, a refreshing alternative to adult education. Workshop place is 120m2 Reachable with public transportation, tram 9-10-3-7-bus 22 To book or for more info: call the workshop 06 24402866

ACTRESSES/ACTORS/PERFORMERS Wanted for underground/experimental film projects. Contact: Flying Sheep Productions 06389 802 54.

PHOTOGRAPHY Fashion, music, portrait, check www.andresphotography.com contact me for info and rates to andresinbox@gmail.com

3D GRAPHIC ARTIST looking in Amsterdam for 3d graphic animation artists to exchange tips, advices and suggestions. We are professional user of Maya and we would like to work with other people on animation projects and create a group of artists involved in the graph-

ic animation, editing text. contact: 3dlab@mail.com

MURALS Interior/Exterior Murals for Kids, Playrooms, Children's Bedrooms, Schools, Libraries, Shops. Non-Toxic paints used. For ideas/estimates please call 020 337 7765

THEIVING MAGPIE BOOKSTORE I find television very educational. Everytime someone switches it on I go into another room and read a good book.' - Groucho Marx The Thieving Magpie Bookstore 1e Bloemdwarsstraat 15 www.thievingmagpie.nl

PHOTO PROJECT: NAMES For an art project we are looking for men with these names: Eduard, Richard, Anton, Gerard and Theodor. Picture taken in the street in Jordaan Sat. 29th of november, takes only 1 hr. For details: laurence@aegerter.nl. Pictures on show in Amsterdam gallery this January. www.laurenceaegerter.com

GROUPS

PRESIDENT OBAMA! Join the best party in town at www.DemocratsAbroad.nl - the 51st state of the Democratic Party, with monthly Dems Fun Drinks and more.

FLY TO BE BETTER Freshly arrived in the Netherlands and interested to broaden your horizon? Willing to travel without having to pack again? Fly with us with Junior Chamber International. Come on board of JCI Airlines and discover our four destinations to 'be Better'. For more info: www.jciai.nl / fly-ingJCIAirlines

VOLUNTEERS

VIDEO EDITORS NEEDED Jimmy Alter is looking for music minded people who would like to go to pop/alternative gigs and make video items. Do you have a DV cam and editing software? We can arrange free concert tickets and clearance for ya! Take a look on our items: <http://www.jimmyalter.nl/media>

SMART PROJECT SPACE urgently seeks volunteers to assist the Cinema team and to help organise projects, events and exhibitions. Interested? Then send your CV to info@smartprojectspace.net

VOLUNTEER IN PERÚ Español offers inexpensive language classes using native English speakers to the poorest economic areas of Trujillo and Chimbote, Peru. This program is aimed at giving those previously unable to afford language classes a chance to learn a new language. www.espaanglis.com for details.

How to submit a classified ad

- Submit classifieds at www.amsterdamweekly.nl/classifieds
- Ads are free, space permitting
- Deadline: Monday at midnight

