

INSIDE ENTERTAINMENT

with **The Times**

- [Entertainment Home](#)
- [TV/Film](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Celebrities](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Atlantic City Guide](#)
- [Entertainment Forums](#)

THINGS TO DO

Hey Jersey, get out there!

- [TWO DAYS FOR JULY 4](#)
- [Ready to Launch: Towns around state plan fireworks despite sour economy](#)
- [TWO DAYS JUNE 20](#)

[MORE THINGS TO DO IN NEW JERSEY >>](#)

PHOTOS

[Baseball: Trenton Thunder vs. New Britain Rock Cats](#)

- [Baseball: Trenton Thunder vs. New Britain Rock Cats](#)
- [Legion baseball: Hamilton vs. Hightstown](#)
- [Legion baseball: Hamilton vs. Hightstown](#)
- [Legion baseball: Hamilton vs. Hightstown](#)

[MORE TIMES OF TRENTON PHOTOS >>](#)[ARCHIVED TIMES OF TRENTON PHOTOS >>](#)

TIMES VIDEO

[WATCH ALL TIMES VIDEOS >>](#)

YOUR PHOTOS

Latest user-submitted photos:



New owner restores historic inn

Friday, July 03, 2009

BY SUSAN SPRAGUE YESKE SPECIAL TO THE TIMES C

chef Evan Blomgren honed his culinary skills around the region, working over the years at well-known restaurants including Chambers Walk in Lawrence, Lahiere's in Princeton Borough, Church Street Bistro in Lambertville and Martine's in New Hope, Pa.

After 17 years spent working for other chefs, he realized his personal goal in November when he reopened the historic Rocky Hill Inn in Rocky Hill as a casual tavern destination as well as a venue for fine dining.

Advertisement

[CONTINUE STORY](#)

Blomgren and his wife, Maria, bought the circa 1745 inn in August, then worked to make it their own with extensive renovations including new floors, ceilings, carpet and crown molding in the formal dining room. To personalize it, in many of the rooms they display family treasures, including glass decanters that had been owned by Blomgren's father.

The couple's hard work shows. The inn has been restored to such finery that it likely may be better than in its best past days, and the formal dining rooms gleam in a way they haven't for many years. Whether dining in the tavern area, in the polished dining room or in the eight-seat "turret room," it's a charming and pleasurable experience.

The leap from chef to chef/owner means more work for Evan Blomgren, who has found it to be an eye-opening experience. "It's a lot more than just cooking," he says.

But make no mistake about it, cooking is still his first love. While an eye for detail has prompted the couple to create the gleaming, white-tablecloth dining room and the polished bar and tavern area, food remains the shining star.

Blomgren trained at New York's French Culinary Institute and, while learning for others, spent years developing a repertoire of his own dishes. He calls his cuisine contemporary American with French and Italian influences, but whatever you call it, it's outstanding food, carefully crafted with an eye toward flavor, texture and customer satisfaction.

When the restaurant first reopened, Blomgren says, he offered separate menus for the tavern and the dining room. More recently he combined them, creating one menu that includes half-portions of pasta and a few sandwiches. He also created a "bar bites" menu, which is served all day and features crab fritters, calamari, mini-burgers and soup.

Both menus are enticing, beginning with the appetizers.

An appetizer serving of polenta pizza, \$8, resembles a small pizza because it is round and flat, but that's where any similarity ends. The creamy polenta base is lighter than any polenta deserves to be, but firm enough to hold up under its topping of asparagus chunks, caramelized cipolini onions and fontina cheese. Around the rim of the plate are tomato and pesto sauces, adding color and an extra dash of flavor to this already delightful dish.

[CONTINUED 1](#) | [2 Next](#)[Send To A Friend](#) [Print This](#)
[Reddit](#) [Digg](#) [del.icio.us](#) [Google](#) [Yahoo](#) [Facebook](#)

NEW JERSEY WEATHER

Newark, NJ

76° F, 24° C
M/SUNNY[CHECK YOUR LOCAL WEATHER >>](#)

AP TOP ENTERTAINMENT VIDEOS

[MORE >>](#)

FORUMS

Talk about Entertainment in our forums.

[Shore](#)

- [Jman the vid man](#), by [hutbeac](#) 07/05/2009 8:51 p.m. ET
- [Jman Beach house party1](#), by [hutbeac](#) 07/05/2009 8:50 p.m. ET
- [Lou' 4th party](#), by [hutbeac](#) 07/05/2009 8:49 p.m. ET

[Munchmobile](#)

- [munchmobile bubbas...](#), by [bubbasdogs33](#) 07/05/2009 4:27 p.m. ET
- [Strawberry Ice Cream...](#), by [nemo04](#) 07/05/2009 9:53 a.m. ET
- [Competitive Eating](#), by [LedZeppole](#) 07/04/2009 1:49 p.m. ET

[Movies](#)

- [I finally got to see...](#), by [Clarice](#) 07/04/2009 8:48 p.m. ET
- [Major Disappointment](#), by [THEAZKID](#) 07/02/2009 12:04 p.m. ET
- [RIP Karl Malden](#), by [Anjuma nm](#) 07/01/2009 5:44 p.m. ET

[MORE ENTERTAINMENT FORUMS >>](#)

INSIDE ENTERTAINMENT
with **The Times**

- [Entertainment Home](#)
- [TV/Film](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Celebrities](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Atlantic City Guide](#)
- [Entertainment Forums](#)

THINGS TO DO

Hey Jersey, get out there!
 • [TWO DAYS FOR JULY 4](#)
 • [Ready to Launch: Towns around state plan fireworks despite sour economy](#)
 • [TWO DAYS JUNE 20](#)

[MORE THINGS TO DO IN NEW JERSEY >>](#)

PHOTOS



Baseball: Trenton Thunder vs. New Britain Rock Cats

- [Baseball: Trenton Thunder vs. New Britain Rock Cats](#)
- [Legion baseball: Hamilton vs. Hightstown](#)
- [Legion baseball: Hamilton vs. Hightstown](#)
- [Legion baseball: Hamilton vs. Hightstown](#)

[MORE TIMES OF TRENTON PHOTOS >>](#)

[ARCHIVED TIMES OF TRENTON PHOTOS >>](#)

TIMES VIDEO

[WATCH ALL TIMES VIDEOS >>](#)

YOUR PHOTOS

Latest user-submitted photos:



New owner restores historic inn - Page 2

Also billed as an appetizer, but quite filling in its own right, is a ramekin of macaroni and cheese, \$9, flavored with bits of applewood-smoked bacon and a subtle sprinkling of Maytag blue cheese. The macaroni, cooked to a perfect al dente, is satisfying without being heavy. This dish and a salad would make a satisfying light supper.

Blomgren's salads are fresh and crisp, including the Caesar salad, \$7, which is colorful with crunchy bites of red and green Romaine lettuce. Garlic croutons, a light dressing and shaved slices of quality Parmesan cheese complete the dish.

Advertisement

[CONTINUE STORY](#)

YOUR TRASH IS SOMEONE ELSE'S TREASURE.
 Post your garage sale online with NJ.com.

nj.com

Among the entrées, a double-boned pork chop, \$24, was a beauty to behold. Grilled to a perfect turn, it was tender and moist, topped with green apple chutney and served with wilted spinach and chipotle-tinged whipped sweet potatoes.

For the diner looking for something light, grilled wild salmon, \$22, is a favorite, perfectly cooked, moist and flaky. Served over fennel with a cucumber salad and orange vinaigrette, it's a satisfying meal that doesn't leave the diner feeling stuffed.

An order of shepherd's pie, \$20, raises everyday fare to a higher level. Outstanding braised lamb fills the bottom of a ramekin, followed by a layer of steamed spinach that is topped by a thick ribbon of mashed potatoes that are browned on the top. Despite its humble heritage, this is a delightful and upscale rendering of a classic dish.

For the vegetarian, there is penne pasta, \$18 for a full serving and \$12 for a half. Zucchini, squash, eggplant and peppers are tossed with the perfectly cooked pasta and finished with a tomato basil sauce.

Desserts are made in-house, and we tried the chocolate molten cake, \$10, served with crème anglaise. It was nicely done, but not exceptional, nor was a serving of fresh berries and cream, \$6. Perhaps it was simply that dessert was superfluous after such a fine meal.

For beer drinkers, the tavern offers a variety of beers, which change often and are posted on a large blackboard. A wine flight, \$10, allows the diner to choose three wines, which are served in 2-ounce pours.

But the primary reason for visiting the Rocky Hill Inn is Blomgren's food. Whether the diner is looking for a sandwich or an elegant meal, it's a delightful choice.

[Previous 1](#) | [2](#)

[Send To A Friend](#) [Print This](#)

[Reddit](#) [Digg](#) [del.icio.us](#) [Google](#) [Yahoo](#) [Facebook](#)

NEW JERSEY WEATHER

Newark, NJ



76° F, 24° C
M/SUNNY

[CHECK YOUR LOCAL WEATHER >>](#)

ROOMS STARTING AT \$99 in July
 breakfast included
 code TNJCOM

AP TOP ENTERTAINMENT VIDEOS [MORE >>](#)

FORUMS

Talk about Entertainment in our forums.

[Shore](#)

- [Jman the vid man](#), by [hutbeac](#) 07/05/2009 8:51 p.m. ET
- [Jman Beach house party1](#), by [hutbeac](#) 07/05/2009 8:50 p.m. ET
- [Lou' 4th party](#), by [hutbeac](#) 07/05/2009 8:49 p.m. ET

[Munchmobile](#)

- [munchmobile bubbas...](#), by [bubbasdogs33](#) 07/05/2009 4:27 p.m. ET
- [Strawberry Ice Cream...](#), by [nemo04](#) 07/05/2009 9:53 a.m. ET
- [Competitive Eating](#), by [LedZeppole](#) 07/04/2009 1:49 p.m. ET

[Movies](#)

- [I finally got to see...](#), by [Clarice](#) 07/04/2009 8:48 p.m. ET
- [Major Disappointment](#), by [THEAZKID](#) 07/02/2009 12:04 p.m. ET
- [RIP Karl Malden](#), by [Anjuma](#) 07/01/2009 5:44 p.m. ET

[MORE ENTERTAINMENT FORUMS >>](#)

BATEAUX NEW YORK

IMAGINE YOUR PERFECT SUMMER EVENING.
Now imagine it within reach.