



STARGON BY ROBERT PERLESS AT BARD COLLEGE

UP-TO-DATE UPSTATE

Rhinebeck, Red Hook, and Tivoli

By **Lindsay Pietroluongo**
Photographs by David Morris Cunningham

Rhinebeck is half opulent and the other half agrarian, and it pulls off both personas oh-so-well. This versatile town has tall, blooming flowers and fresh-squeezed lemonade during the summer; hand-knit sweaters, creamy hot chocolate, and caroling in the winter; piping hot coffee and fluffy croissants early in the morning; after-hours shopping, late-night dining, and indie movies once the sun goes down.

The Rhinebeck Department Store is the smallest of its kind, which is just another part of its charm. The space is packed with well-made clothing, Life is Good wear for babies, coffee mugs, and a quaint men's section. A moose head hangs over the mirrors, seemingly judging whatever you're trying on. Staff members quietly whisper to each other, a welcome change from noisy stores where teen workers loudly gossip. At nearby Oblong Books & Music, you won't find any dogeared pages or water rings ruining front covers. The shop holds regular readings by authors and stocks a lot of music from local musicians.

Pure Mountain Olive Oil opened over Memorial Day weekend, and owner Zak Cassady-Dorion is still beaming. Along with his cousin and fellow store owner, Charlie Ruehr, the two men have created a one-of-a-kind shop in the heart of Rhinebeck. Flavored olive oils, balsamic vinegars, and sea salts are all available for tasting before you buy. bluecashew Kitchen Pharmacy, the brainchild of Sean B. Nutley and Gregory F. Triana, is the perfect recipe for anyone who likes to cook, bake, entertain, or just shake up a good martini. Once located in High Falls, bluecashew made the move to Rhinebeck in 2009. "To



CHARLES PROSSEL AND BOB CAPOWSKI AT THE RHINEBECK FARMERS' MARKET



EVELYN O'BRIEN AT THE BOULEVARD



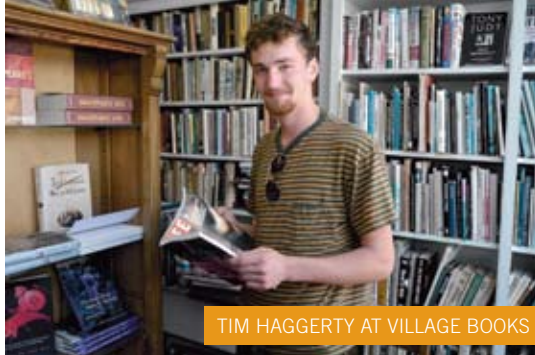
SCOTT ECKERT AT CHANGES



BEN HINES AT THE PHANTOM GARDENER



JENNIFER KISHBAUGH AT THE RED HOOK EMPORIUM



TIM HAGGERTY AT VILLAGE BOOKS



AMBER MAXFIELD, KAITLYN BRUGGERMANN,
AND JACKIE HAINES AT PAPER TRAIL



SANDRA MACKINTOSH BUHALIS AT
EAST MARKET STREET ANTIQUES



ROBIN VEACH AT WONDERLAND
FLORIST & NURSERY



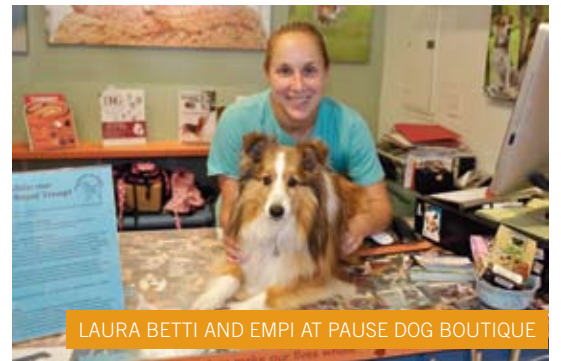
ALEXIS FELDHEIM, ANN MORING, AND LENNY
AT HUDSON VALLEY POTTERY



MICHAEL UCCELLINI AT RED HOOK
NATURAL FOODS AND MARKET



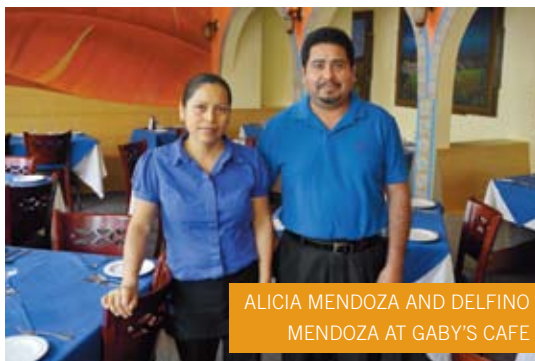
SHANNON STREIFENEDER AND
JOHN BUERGERS AT GIGI TRATTORIA



LAURA BETTI AND EMPI AT PAUSE DOG BOUTIQUE



OLIVIA HARRIS, MARVIN ESCUN, GIANNA FENAROLI,
STEVEN FRALEIGH, KAYLA MARCHANT, AND LUKE
JOHNSON AT TASTE BUDDS



ALICIA MENDOZA AND DELFINO
MENDOZA AT GABY'S CAFE



AMY BYRNE AT RHINEBECK HEALTH FOODS



BRANDI VOGT AND CASSIE MCGAHAN AT TERRAPIN



MARTIN SCHLEEVE AT RHINEBECK BIKE SHOP



MARTA FUERST, DAVID INGE, LYNNE CZAJKA, AND
SHANNON FITZSIMONS (CAMP DIRECTORS) AT THE
RHINEBECK CENTER OF PERFORMING ARTS



MONTGOMERY PLACE MANSION IN RED HOOK



MICHELLE BECK AT MURRAY'S



BOGUSLAWA KACZOR-LISLE AND RICHARD F. LISLE
AT RICHARD F. LISLE STUDIO AND GALLERY



HOFFMAN'S BARN SALE



KAATSBAAAN INTERNATIONAL DANCE CENTER



SEAN B. NUTLEY AT BLUECASHEW KITCHEN PHARMACY RHINEBECK



WES DIER AT THE LOCAL



THE BLACK SWAN IN TIVOLI

LOCAL NOTABLE Rei Peraza, Panzur



Panzur Restaurant and Wine Bar is still a baby, having just opened in May of last year. If you don't understand the restaurant's name, it's not because you're uncultured—it's a combination of Chef Rei Peraza's grandfather's last name, Manzur, and the Spanish word for "belly," panza. While Peraza never got the chance to cook with his grandfather, his restaurant honors his memory.

After working as a chef for prominent companies like Microsoft, Peraza slowed down with Panzur. The menu is modified almost every day, partly because local produce is ever-changing. Seasonality is one of the main reasons why Peraza chose the Hudson Valley. Every well-defined time of the year brings with it new products, flavors, and dishes. This is every chef's dream, to cook what they want, when they want, and still run a booming business. "Here, you do what you want and people show up if they like it," bartender Curtis Hancock says. He explains that since Tivoli is such a small town, Panzur's clients aren't exactly stumbling upon the establishment. Instead, they're seeking it out and purposefully making reservations.

Hancock mixes up the day's specialty cocktail, a Honeydew Cobble, combining Fino sherry with muddled honeydew and an orange slice. Proving that he's a true mixologist, he gives a little history as he pours. In the 1800s, cobbles required just two components: ice and a straw, both of which were rare novelties. It seems that you can ask this guy anything about what's behind his bar, and he'll have an answer. Patrons even seem to test this theory out, putting their own knowledge on display and daring him to keep up (which he does, flawlessly). Panzur's wine list is mostly Spanish, with some French and Latin varietals thrown in. Beer drinkers won't find Bud on tap. Instead, there are brews like Narragansett Summer Ale from Providence and Greenflash IPA from San Diego.

Sticking to the theme of a traditional Spanish tapas bar, there's a carving station with bread, cheese, and meat set up near the back wall. Manager Jeffrey Boyle confidently says that even though Panzur is a bit out of the way, it still blows most Manhattan restaurants out of the water. He would know, too, since he works at one such city joint during the week.

Servers strongly recommend the crispy pig belly tapas plate, served with a sherry-cherry glaze. There are lists of cheese, ham, and charcuterie choices, as well as small plates like spring garlic soup and marinated octopus. Steak frites are served with malaby pepper butter, bacon pearl onion confit, and a red wine reduction. Lemon-thyme flan is accompanied by French press coffee. The dessert menu has two pages full of recommendations for cheese, sherry, dessert wine, and digestives.

Four square orange panels display graffiti art along the wall. Several small, pastoral tables and chairs line up to create one long table down the center of the main dining room. Seats by the window that look out on Broadway have cushy gray pillows that I suspect patrons never want to get up from.

What you have to admire most about Peraza is his honest approach to Epicureanism. Pleasure is front and center. You can eat when you're not hungry, drink when you're not thirsty. He encourages everyone to enjoy cuisine simply because it tastes good.

Panzur.com

further expand the business, the move was evident," Nutley says. "Rhinebeck takes pride in its Dutch history, scenic beauty, and support for the arts." Celebrity chefs and authors frequent bluecashew for book signings and tastings. (Zakary Pelaccio of Fatty Crab fame will read from his new book, *Eat With Your Hands*, on August 4. An interview with Pelaccio appears on page 116.) For an all-inclusive kitchenware emporium, head to Warren Kitchen and Cutlery a few minutes up the road. Culinary students rely on Warren when they need to stock up on supplies.

Shopping for cookware is bound to make your stomach growl. Foster's Coach House, Rhinebeck's second-ever restaurant, serves various seafood dishes, old favorites like the French Dip sandwich or roast turkey dinner, and sugary desserts like berry mascarpone cake. When Wally Foster bought the establishment prior to World War II, he remodeled it to look like a horse stable. The dining booths are designed as horse stalls, trophies are displayed in the tack room, and a faux mare greets you at the door.

Gigi Hudson Valley, which runs both the Trattoria in Rhinebeck and the market and catering center at Greig Farm in Red Hook, focuses on the healthy side of Italian cuisine. "As a chef, restaurateur, and registered dietitian, I see all of these initiatives intertwined," manager Laura Pensiero says. Next door, the old First Baptist Church houses Terrapin. For the Red Bistro side of the restaurant (the more formal dining room is adjacent), chef Josh Kroner whips up shredded duck confit sandwiches, maple-bacon roasted almonds with sea salt, and macadamia nut tempura calamari.

Matchbox Cafe and its friendly owners Sam and Joann Cohen offer a faster dining experience. Visitors ask themselves, "How does a baker grill a burger so well?" Or, on the other hand, "How does a chef learn to bake like this?" While the cafe's burger (recommended rare) is the main draw, the desserts (namely the Oprah-recommended red velvet cake) are a close second.

Once you've exercised your wallet, visit Ferncliff Forest for a real workout. The green haven is quieter than quiet, other than the deep *ribbits* from undetectable frogs. Stand close to the water by the murky pond to be surrounded by colorful dragonflies—they bring good luck, you know. Grab your best buds and fishing poles or lace up your hiking boots and head to the fire tower for an expansive view of the valley from above the canopy of trees.

The eclectic Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck offers another type of entertainment, with shows ranging from the lighthearted "Legally Blonde: the Musical" (through August 19) to the dramatic, tense "Doubt" (September 28 to October 14). The center was built to resemble a barn, enhancing the rural setting while also paying tribute to summer stock's roots.

Locals are familiar with the 30-year-old Rhinebeck Animal Hospital, which also runs the Rhinebeck Animal Hospital Helping Hands Fund to help compensate for the cost of treating wild animals. For your domesticated furry friends, the hospital also offers grooming and boarding. The Rhinebeck Bank, one of the oldest in New York State, is seriously dedicated to its community and puts local needs first.

Rusty's Farm Fresh Eatery in Red Hook has light wood tables and burnt orange walls, creating an airy, bright atmosphere. The small restaurant is louder than normal, but in a good way. Parents laugh as kids happily shriek, staff members chat with customers and dishes bang in the semi-open kitchen. Order fresh-squeezed juice from organic produce like purple carrots, elephant garlic, and Thai basil. Try the avocado and roast corn chilled soup or the vegan coconut ice cream. Healthy, green wheat grass is displayed next to Boston Creme cupcakes in the cooler.

At Flatiron Restaurant, everything is made in-house. Shaved Brussels sprouts with butter-roasted walnuts, caramelized sea scallops, and lamb burgers are on the menu. The family-friendly Mercato Osteria Enoteca serves bruschetta with chicken livers, pan-seared quail saltimbocca, and a pine nut honey tart with vanilla gelato for dessert. Loyal patrons dream all winter of the West Coast-style vegetarian burritos and cheese quesadillas from the seasonal Bubby's Burrito Stand.

Both Red Hook and Tivoli are carbon copies of what New York City dwellers typically envision when they think of upstate New York—even though Dutchess County residents know that the area isn't technically "upstate." Sprawling, freshly mowed fields lead to rows of swaying corn husks. Dirt and gravel roads kick up a dusty film that coats your car. Unpretentious eateries have coolers filled with milk in glass bottles. Once you turn onto Broadway in Tivoli, though, you come across some of Dutchess County's best kept se-

RESOURCES

Art Studio Views Artstudioviews.com

Artist Richard F. Lisle Studio & Gallery (845) 835-8197

Atelier Renee Fine Framing Atelierreneefineframing.com

Bard Center for Environmental Policy Bard.edu/cep

Beekman Arms Antique Market

Beekmandelamaterinn.com/market.htm

Bumble & Hive (845) 876-2625

Clear Yoga Clearyogarrhinebeck.com

DC Studios Dcstudiosllc.com

Hitchcock & Co Electricace.com

Iconic Hair Iconic-hair.com

John L Zboinski, DPM RhinebeckFootCare.com

Kary Broffman, RN, CH Karybroffman.com

Nori Connell, RN, DC Drnoriconnell.com

Northern Dutchess Botanical Gardens Ndbgonline.com

Osaka Restaurant Osakasushi.net

Paula Redmond Real Estate Paularedmond.com

Rhinebeck Artist's Shop (876) 4922

Rhinebeck Dance Rhinebeckdance.com

Rhinebeck Department Store Shophrhinebeck.com

Rhinebeck Eye Care (845) 876-2222

Satya Yoga Satyayogacenter.us

Tangent Theatre Tangent-arts.org

Terrapin Terrapinrestaurant.com

The Episcopal Church of the Messiah

Rhinebeck-episcopal.org

The Gardens at Rhinebeck Rhinebeckgardens.com



UPSTATE FILMS IN RHINEBECK

cretts, like the Madalin Hotel. The boutique hotel, which dates back to the early 1900s, was first a hotel, then a bar, and now both. After buying the building nine years ago, owner Jose Cicileo spent two years renovating it to its original state. Eleven rooms accommodate travelers and the wraparound patio serves as the dining area in balmy weather. The flat-screen TV in the tavern-style bar is the only reminder that you're in the 21st century. Otherwise, the setting is a throwback to simpler days.

Order Japanese dishes and sushi rolls at Osaka. Aside from its laughably long tequila list, Santa Fe's menu also includes sweet gold plantains and pulled pork tacos. When nothing but a cold beer at a simple bar will do, make your way over to the Black Swan Pub, the resident hangout for Bard students. If there's not a college kid in sight, they may be grabbing a slice at the brand new Two Boots Pizza (of New York City fame), located directly across from Bard's main entrance.

The contemporary Tangent Theater Company, which was created in 2000 and produces character-driven plays, moved from New York City to Tivoli three years ago in an effort to tap into local talent and the area's rich arts environment. Before packing up, Artistic Director Michael Rhodes jotted down some notes concerning the relocation. "To go where the doors are open, the phones are answered, the possibilities are tangible... Show that talents don't always lead to the 'cultural nerve center,' sometimes they migrate away from the congestion," Rhodes wrote in 2006. Once situated at their new address, the owners knew they were exactly where they belonged. Today, Tangent produces both contemporary works and revivals of old classics, always examining the hidden corners of relationships and human behavior.

Kaatsbaan, the international dance center that was founded by professional dancers, gives choreographers a place to train, experiment, and perform. Visitors can browse the retail shops and exhibition galleries. Bard College's vast, easy-to-get-lost-on campus is home to the imaginative and dominant Richard B. Fisher Center, designed by Frank Gehry. The center hosts Bard SummerScape, with events ranging from opera and dance to film and cabaret. The whimsical Spiegeltent holds events through August 18, including acrobats, salsa music, and DJ sets.

As you pass through Rhinebeck and into Red Hook, finally making your way to Tivoli, you'll notice that the pace gets slower by the mile. This gait is probably why so many people love spending their free time off the beaten path. Business owners will tell you the same thing: That while they have plenty of local regulars, so many customers are weekend travelers escaping the city. All three unrushed towns have figured out how to run thriving businesses without being in too much of a hurry. Everyone could use the same lesson in how to succeed and exhale simultaneously. 

EVENTS

Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome

Air shows are every Saturday and Sunday at 2pm at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, from mid-June to mid-October. Every weekend air show is preceded by a vintage fashion show and an old-time auto parade. On Saturdays, the show emphasizes planes from the pioneer days. On Sundays, there's a mock-World War I dogfight in the sky.

Oldrhinebeck.org

Oblong Books & Music

The Montgomery Row retailer hosts author events throughout the year. On August 11, from 4 to 6pm, Linda Hirschman will read from *Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution*. John Kelly will give a reading from *The Graves are Walking: The Great Famine* and the *Saga of the Irish People* on August 30.

Oblongbooks.com

New York State Sheep and Wool Festival

Every third weekend in October (this year October 20 and 21) fiber fanatics take over the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck for two days of livestock, yarn, woven objects, spinning wheels, and all things knit and spun.

Sheepandwool.com

Bard SummerScape

The annual SummerScape festival in July and August offers seven weeks of theater, film, opera, dance, classical music, discussions and cabaret—the latter in the glittering temple of vaudeville sin, the Spiegeltent. In addition, each year Bard selects an avatar of the classical music world, honors him or her by reviving his or her works and then builds out the schedule from there, citing the works of contemporaries, mentors, and influences. (This year's features Camille Saint-Saëns.)

Fishercenter.bard.edu

Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck

Legally Blonde: The Musical is playing through August 19 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. The Best of Doo Wop will be held from August 24 to the 26. *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will be held on August 4. Magician Derrin Berger performs on August 11. Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* will be performed on August 18 and 25. For shows and events from September through November, visit them online at

Centerforperformingarts.org.

Sinterklaas

The first Saturday in December, Rhinebeckers celebrate their Dutch heritage by recreating customs that the settlers from Holland brought to the Hudson Valley 300 years ago. Enter Sinterklaas, a gent much like Father Christmas elegantly garbed in a bishop's tall hat, red cape, shiny ring, and jeweled staff. Mounted on a white steed, Sinterklaas rides through town distributing goodies. The Sinterklaas Festival is a pageant of epic proportions, complete with parade, elaborate costumes, and music, dancing, and a hint of Old World magic.

Sinterklaasrhinebeck.com

Dutchess County Fair

The Dutchess County Fair is New York's second-largest county fair, a showplace for agriculture over 160 acres of finely manicured gardens and grass featuring thousands of farm animals, agricultural exhibits, and horticultural displays. This year's fair will take place August 21 through August 26 and highlights include performances by Chubby Checker and Starship. The Hudson Valley Wine and Food Festival is on September 8 and 9 at the fairgrounds.

www.dutchessfair.com

LOCAL NOTABLE

Mike DiGiacomio, Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome



Strapping on a leather Snoopy cap, flat flying goggles and a scarf to guide your biplane expertly over a rushing river are what dreams—or movie sets—are made of. For those who live in the Hudson Valley, though, the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome has made the fantasy come to life. Don't worry—you'll be given a more dependable helmet than a thin piece of leather, an experienced pilot will be doing the flying, and the Hudson River doesn't exactly "rush." The rest, though, is imagination come to life.

The Aerodrome, instituted in 1959, is Cole Palen's opus. After spending his life savings on six WWI aircrafts that were up for sale when Roosevelt Field closed in 1951, Palen laboriously moved his new treasures upstate. By the time Palen passed in 1993, his collection had grown to over 60 vehicles.

Today, museum president Mike DiGiacomio is in charge of the Aerodrome's airplanes, automobiles, motorcycles, engines and memorabilia. Four buildings display aircraft from aviation's golden years: the pioneer and barnstorming eras and WWI. Growing up with a father in the US Air Force, DiGiacomio has been around planes all his life. "Aviation's always been one of my biggest passions," he says.

The world-renowned Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome is in the vocabulary of most aviation and history buffs. The collection is truly rare—several of the planes are the last of their kind, and others are the world's sole reproductions. As donations are made, the exhibit grows and changes. Recently, a 1940s Jeep was given to the museum. On the weekend, two distinct air shows delight all ages. Every Saturday, the History of Flight displays aircrafts from the early 1900s up to WWI, as well as ribbon cuts, acrobatics, and mock bomb drops. Sunday air shows include fireworks and pyrotechnics, dogfight simulations, and WWI replica aircraft.

Aside from pure entertainment, the Aerodrome's museum, air shows and biplane rides help people understand old time aviation and industry. "[The Aerodrome] shows the struggles of mankind and how men and women worked hard at problems and solved those problems in different ways," DiGiacomio says. "It shows how people can persevere. Without all those struggles and all the work people did in the early 1900s, we wouldn't have jets that fly across the country."

While it's not an easy task to compete with iPads, iPhones, and other technology, historic aviation is fairly easy to understand. "My favorite part [of this job] is passing on the joy of flight and the excitement of it all to the younger generations," DiGiacomio says. "Aviation back then was much more accessible and existent to the common person. A biplane could land in your backyard and take you for a ride." Teenagers don't have to leave all their handheld devices in the car, though. Even history-based museums have to keep up with changing times. For example, some of the displays have QR codes that you can scan with your smartphone to get a description of what you're looking at.

The museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm. Airshows and biplane rides are held every weekend through October, weather permitting. Bring along a few friends—the plane can fit up to four people.

Oldrhinebeck.org.