



Liz Johnson/The Journal News  
Wine Geeks owners Derek and Carol Todd taste each bottle of handcrafted wines from small seasonal producers before they allow them to be sold in their shop.



Joe Larese/The Journal News

## ARMONK dining scene sizzles

An influx of new restaurants makes the hamlet a culinary destination

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Ever since Schultz's Cider Mill closed in 2002, there wasn't much of a reason for adventurous diners to come to the quaint hamlet of Armonk.

Sure, there's great shopping and lovely parks, but great restaurants? Not really.

But within the past year, the tune of the neighborhood is truly changing — to a culinary one.

Food was already a part of Armonk's fabric, with a seafood shop (La Mer), a steakhouse (Marc Charles) and an organic cafe (Cafe Norma). But with the opening of high-profile restaurants such as Moderne Barn and Restaurant North, a new upscale, organic wine shop and a hip lunch spot for burgers and fries, Armonk is rapidly transforming itself into a prime food destination in Westchester.

"Armonk is truly populated with an educated clientele," says Eric Gabrynowicz, executive chef and owner at Restaurant North. He and partner Stephen Mancini, the former wine and spirits director for Mialino in Manhattan, met while working at Union Square Cafe in Manhattan. "Ninety percent of the people who have lived here have worked in the city or dined there."

Armonk, near Greenwich, Conn., and convenient to many other places, including Mount Kisco, Bedford and White Plains, is the ideal spot to attract diners from across the region, Gabrynowicz says.



Eric Gabrynowicz



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**Above:** The main dining room at Moderne Barn, which opened recently in the space that was once a furniture store. The décor is bold and brassy, and the food features rich, bold flavors.

**Left:** A chili and cheddar burger at The Burger Factory, which features burgers with creative toppings.



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The busy dining room at the small and cozy Restaurant North, which emphasizes fresh ingredients and farm-to-table cooking.