

SUMMER 2009: GREATEST DEALS EVER

Condé Nast Traveler

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L'Artusi »New York, New York

Named for a famed nineteenth-century Italian cookbook author, L'Artusi is the second collaboration between chef Gabe Thompson and sommelier Joe Campanale. The buzzy West Village restaurant is packed nightly: A stylish crowd fills the low banquettes and the long bar, but the most coveted spots are a handful of coveted seats facing the open kitchen at the back. Thompson's menu of beautifully composed crudos, hearty homemade pastas, and mid-sized mains lends itself to sharing—but you'll want the buckwheat *pizzocheri* with sage, brussels sprouts, and fontina all to yourself. Knowledgeable servers help you to navigate the extensive Italian-leaning wine list, and chef Katherine Lahr's luscious desserts are a must.

Tip: Oenophiles should book the 16-person wine room (228 W. Tenth St.; 212-255-5757; entrées, \$16–\$24).

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