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ATTENTION ALL FOODIES:

HUDSON VALLEY RESTAURANT WEEKS SET FOR MARCH 9-21

The Hudson Valley Is a Culinary Destination to Be Savored

NEWBURGH, N.Y. – Hudson Valley Restaurant Weeks will soon prove once again that the Hudson Valley is a rich culinary region with a “farm to table” attitude. Presented by The Valley Table, the magazine of Hudson Valley farms, food and cuisine, the event is scheduled over a two-week period, March 9-21.

With nearly 80 restaurants in 7 counties participating, diners can enjoy a three-course lunch for \$16.09 or a three-course dinner for \$26.09 Sunday through Friday. Reservations are now being accepted at participating restaurants in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Columbia counties.

Restaurant Weeks will also showcase the bounty of the Hudson Valley’s farms. “Buying local will be a big theme for Restaurant Weeks 2008,” says coordinator Anne Dailey. Participating restaurants will be challenged to use as many locally grown products as possible, and chefs will receive information about local farms and producers that sell to restaurants year-round, so they can incorporate local ingredients into their menu offerings.

New to Restaurant Weeks this year are **Equus Restaurant** at the Castle on the Hudson in Tarrytown, offering Continental American cuisine in a castle setting; **The Red Onion** in Saugerties, where Chef Kevin Katz creates wonderful flavors using local ingredients; **X20 Xaviars on the Hudson**, Chef Peter Kelly’s newest addition to Xaviars Restaurant Group; the famed **Mohonk Mountain House** in New Paltz; **John Michael’s at Purdy’s Homestead** in North Salem; **Sentrista Grille** in Brewster; **The Lantern** in Mahopac; **2 Spear Street** in Nyack; **Blue Plate** in Chatham; **The River Bank** in Cornwall on Hudson; **Charlotte’s** in Millbrook; **Starr Place** in Rhinebeck and many others.

“This kind of collaborative marketing helps everyone,” says Janet Crawshaw, publisher of The Valley Table. “The event is heavily promoted, so the restaurants gain wide exposure to new customers they might not be able to reach on their own. And diners have the opportunity to try out restaurants they might not have known about and to do so at an amazing price.”

For every restaurant participating in the event, The Valley Table will make a donation to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation. Some of the restaurants are designating a percentage of their sales on the first night of Restaurant Weeks to the charity as well.

Hudson Valley Restaurant Weeks is presented by The Valley Table. Major sponsors are American Express, Hudson Valley Tourism, The Journal News, 100.7 WHUD, and The Gold Standard Marketing Communications, with additional support from Zwilling J.A. Henckels, The Thayer Hotel, Westchester Magazine, Hudson Valley Magazine, Millbrook Vineyards and Winery, Eagle Coffee International, Nina Hill of Wachovia Securities LLC, Chefs Warehouse and Westfair Business Publications (Westchester County Business Journal, Hudson Valley Business).

For more information and a complete list of participating restaurants, call 845-561-2022 or go online to www.HudsonValleyRestaurantWeek.com.