

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

about the Bijou's international menu of haute cuisine.

BEST OF ALL, for those of us who do not read menus in French without an interpreter, everything on the Bijou menu will be named in French, but also given a detailed explanation in English, plus a number to order by.

Seafood and steaks will be among the specialties, with lots of tableside cooking including crêpes. An entrée may average \$7 to \$9, some at \$12 or more, and everything will be a la carte.

Your meal may begin with a shrimp cocktail Bijou served on half an avocado and wind up with a French pastry — or you can make a choice from more elaborate fare.

Visiting chef Grasiotin described the menu between bites of hamburger and offered homespun philosophy:

"PEOPLE CAN come here and have a leisurely meal, over three or four hours. So many people are in a rush. They save two minutes, rush home to relax and are two minutes nearer to death.

"We could beat inflation if people were taught to eat — to chew — they wouldn't eat so much."

Grasiotin thinks the Bijou's gourmet menu "is what is needed in this area so the people, even though we've got inflation and depression, the husband will say, 'Honey, let's splash out and have some good food.'"

He predicts that in today's economy people will stay with restaurants that offer either fast foods or fine foods.

"IT'S THE mediocre restaurants that are being sorted out," Grasiotin said.

For 28 years, Grasiotin has taught at the Culinary Institute, 21 years of this "perfect attendance," he reported.

He has just been elected to The Golden Toque, an organization of less than 65 of the top professional chefs in America, including the White House chef.

Grasiotin autographed a copy of "The Professional Chef," bible of the Culinary Institute, to me "and 50 amis."

THE BOOK which is in its fourth edition was prepared by the

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

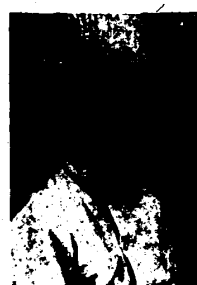
Culinary Institute of America and the Editors of Institutions Magazine. Food portions are mostly given for 50 persons.

At the Culinary Institute, "We are dedicated to teach cooking to reach more people. We have a moral responsibility to improve the food and improve health," Grasiotin said.

The Italian-born, English-educated Grasiotin, who is 63, may just be the schoolboy's professor, "Mr. Chips," of the food industry.

He has been demonstration chef for many years at the Culinary Institute and he participates in the institute's consultant service, lecturing to alumni.

"We're just like parents," he said. "After the children are married, we go visit."



Chef Aldo Grasiotin

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