

LET'S GO! DINING

Small, quaint Emily's treats diners like company

BY BRIAN LYSAUGHT
STAFF WRITER

After five years of BIG, Rick Halberg decided to get small and comfortable.

Halberg was one of three partners in R.I.K.'s, the big, (mostly) successful restaurant on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. It failed eventually in Oakland County's hyper-competitive restaurant scene.

Seeking to return to the kitchen, Halberg settled on a quaint house in downtown Northville. Mediterranean cuisine with a touch of French inspiration and, for a name, his 12-year-old daughter's.

Emily's, 605 N. Center, opened in October. It serves dinner only and by reservation only. (Fridays and Saturdays are booked through December).

"The kind of food we serve is the food I like to cook and eat, not at all pretentious or designer-like," said Halberg, a 1977 graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. "It's really good, flavorful food."

It is inspired by the rural fare of Italy, Spain and France.

The menu is somewhat limited, but Halberg said that's necessary because it's a small place. He is cooking all or many of the meals, along with Donna Brown, the sous chef who is a 1992 graduate of Schoolcraft College's Culinary arts program. Jeanne Bartlett is the pastry chef, and Michael Korn, a R.I.K. alumnus, mans the kitchen.

The meal at Emily's, which is

fixed price (\$29-\$35), begins with a choice of appetizers. These include roasted butternut squash, marinated artichokes, tomatoes with fresh basil, and pepper and wild mushroom ravioli.

Then comes salad, either fresh greens with Ricotta cheese and Balsamic vinegar dressing or marinated salmon wrapped around frites and julienne apples.

The main courses include striped bass on spaghetti with pesto and topped with tomato and anchovies and swordfish steak sauteed and topped with sweet pepper confit in sherry vinaigrette and roasted orzo pasta.

There is a changing vegetarian dish, which could be a vegetable tart on a pastry shell served with garlic sauce and Parmesan custard.

For beef fans, there is pan-seared tenderloin with Gorgonzola-potato gratin. The boned half duck is roasted and basted with Balsamic vinegar and spices. The veal shank is prepared in a vegetable sauce, gnocchi and served with saffron risotto.

The wine list is extensive and includes selections from France, California, Spain and Italy.

"I wanted to cook again," said Halberg. "I couldn't cook (at R.I.K.) because it was way too



big."

"I'm cooking every day now."

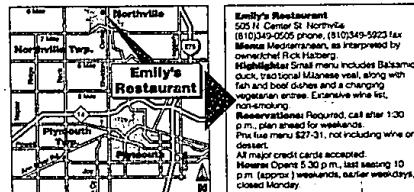
The main room, which seats about 50, "is like my little house," said Korn. "Every day I clean my house and have company over." It's painted sunflower yellow with blue accents, and the walls feature a nice selection of paintings.

Korn, got his start as a R.I.K.'s waiter, now handles the staff, the wine list and maître d's duties.

Brown, who shares the remarkably small kitchen with Halberg, said they aren't bumping into each other.

"It's nice because the kitchen is really efficient and I think Rick and I really work well together," Brown said.

Emily's place: Chef Rick Halberg named his quaint new Northville restaurant after his daughter, Emily. Halberg was an owner and chef at R.I.K.'s for several years. Emily's serves dinner only and by reservation only.



Emily's Restaurant
501 N. Center St. Northville
(810) 349-0505 phone, (810) 349-5923 fax
Reservations required, as interpreted by
highlighted. Small menu includes Balsamic
duck, traditional Manne's veal, along with
salads, soups, pasta, and a variety of
vegetarian entrees. Extensive wine list.
non-smoking
Reservations required, call after 1:30
pm, plan ahead for weekends.
Print menu \$27.31, not including wine or
dinner. Major credit cards accepted.
Hours: Open 5:30 p.m., last seating 10
p.m. (approx.) weekends, earlier weekdays,
closed Monday.

Restaurant Specials

Send items to be considered for publication to: Kelly Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax (313) 597-7279.

Festive events

ROCKAWAY ETON STREET STATION
Rockaway New Year's Eve menu includes appetizers, entrees such as filet mignon, stuffed jumbo shrimp and whitefish. Mel Rancher performs at the party 8:30-9:30 p.m. with a special set by David Myles and the Myles-Tones. (810) 647-7774.

RUSSIAN BEAR
Banquet style dinner, live entertainment, strolling musicians from Moscow, party favors, cost \$95 per person. Advance tickets on sale now. (810) 474-3033

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ALL are non-profit corporations, and donations are tax deductible.
There'll be "heavy" hors d'oeuvres, a complimentary bar until 10 p.m., a cash bar from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m., complimentary champagne toast, dancing, and a breakfast buffet. For more information, call (313) 832-3300.

OPUS 9000
Three dinner seatings on Saturday, Dec. 31, beginning at 5 p.m. The third at 9:30 p.m. is \$75 per person and includes a \$245 per couple. Includes champagne toast, party favors, keepsake photo, overnight accommodation. Cocktail attire. Includes a \$25 per child. New Year's Eve party for children ages 5-10, \$30 per child. New Year's Day Buffet, live entertainment, assortment of fruits, cheeses, canapes, seafood, pastries, entrees, \$30 per person, children ages 6-10, \$15. (313) 987-7766

Jazz

BOTSFORD DIN
Jack Brokaw's Quartet, 8 p.m. Thursdays at the inn, 28000 Grand River, Botfurd, 8-10 p.m. \$15 per person. \$15 admission \$5 per person with a drink per person minimum. On Thursday, Dec. 22, Brokaw will be performing tunes from his Christmas album.

(810) 474-4900

LE METRO
Jazz trio, Marvin Kahn on alto clarinet and Keith Vreeland, piano. Thursday nights at Le Metro, 29655 Northwestern, Southfield. (810) 353-2757

COUNTRY ELEGANCE
Wolbert Peppar, piano and Bob Barnes Sat. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. \$25 per couple. Includes a \$100 per couple. Buffet featuring vocalists Renee Jackson, Fridays and Saturdays. The restaurant is at 42050 Grand River, Novi. (810) 349-3729 or (810) 352-2797 or Ticketmaster, (810) 645-6666 for reservations.

College restaurants

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Rodgewood Cares in the lobby of Merrill Hall, Rodgewood Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Student-run restaurant is open for lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. (810) 441-7760

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
New Gourmet International Buffet offered by the college's restaurant, American Harvest, 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, beginning Dec. 22. \$15 per person, \$18 per couple for reservations. (313) 462-4488

BRUNCH

BRADLEY'S

Brunch will offer a special price of \$19.95

for a family of four (2 adults and 2 children) for the entire month of January. This

JCC hosts New Year's event

Nancy Gurwin will present her new musical review, "They Stopped the Show," at a very special evening to welcome in the new year, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31 at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple and include dinner, show, dancing and party favors. Call (810) 352-3729 or (810) 352-2797 or Ticketmaster, (810) 645-6666 for reservations.

The party begins with cocktails and nibbles — a buffet

brunch is available separately for \$12.95 for adults, \$8.95 seniors, and \$4.95 children ages 5-12; and for kids 4 and under, \$10.00. The show begins at 10 p.m. inside the Holiday Inn, Farmington Hills. Brunch served 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays. (810) 559-4230

ELI & DOROTHY

Sheraton Oaks, across from Twelve Oaks Mall, meet Eli Rattner and Denny McLain. Sunday Brunch served 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$12.95, seniors \$10.95. Live Top 40 entertainment 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. (810) 349-5000

Holiday gifts

OLD HOMESTEAD
Offer discount gift certificates that might make the perfect good holiday gift for the man or woman who has everything.

(810) 559-4230

BRADLEY'S EATERY

The restaurant at 26053 Town Center Drive, Novi, is offering gift certificates. They are accepting reservations for New Year's Eve. They are also offering a New Year's dinner-movie package. Call for details. (810) 380-8460

Extravaganza benefits AIDS

If you'd like to celebrate New Year's Eve in style and at the same time benefit AIDS, you may want to consider attending the New Year's Eve Extravaganza act for 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 31.

The site will be YWCA, home of the former, storied University Club at 1411 E. Jefferson in Detroit. Tickets are \$75 per person, and attire is creative formal wear.

Contributions may be made payable to any of the following:

Kids Like Us; The Names

Project; H.E.L.P. (Health Emergency Lifeline Program); or A.A.E.P., The Association for AIDS Education and Prevention, Inc.

All are non-profit corporations, and donations are tax deductible.

There'll be "heavy" hors d'oeuvres, a complimentary bar until 10 p.m., a cash bar from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m., complimentary champagne toast, dancing, and a breakfast buffet. For more information, call (313) 832-3300.

OPEN NEW YEAR'S DAY

1 P.M. - 6 P.M.

PREMIUM SEATED

AT 1 P.M.

Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE

537-5600

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION!

\$35.00 PER PERSON (Gratuity and sales tax not included)

INCLUDES -

Appetizer Combo Plate - French Onion Soup & Tomato Grilled Cheese

CHOICE OF ENTREES:

• KING CUT PRIME RIB with Au Jus

• CHOICE FILET MIGNON with Béarnaise sauce

• BROILED LOBSTER TAIL with drawn butter

• "A" STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST

CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT

OPEN NEW YEAR'S DAY

1 P.M. - 6 P.M.

PREMIUM SEATED

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Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE

537-5600

New Year's Eve

Being Seen At The Kingsley Is Part Of The Fun!

• Champagne Toast

• Full Course Dinner

• Live Band

\$198.00 per couple

(plus tax & gratuity)

Ballroom Party Only - \$54.00 per person

Kingsley Inn

Woodward at Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills 844-1400

MITCH HOUSEY'S

We've Got It

Here On

NEW YEAR'S EVE

from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

DANCING to the Showcasemen

PREMIUM BAR PKG.

BREAKFAST

scrambled eggs & pork sausage

served at 2 a.m.

ONLY '60 PER PERSON

(INCLUDES ALL TAX & GRATUITIES)

MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

Two Choices of Three Courses Dinner

• PRIME RIB

• FILET MIGNON

• N.Y. STRIP STEAK

(with Lemon Pepper)

(with Parley Butter)

• CHICKEN DIVAN

Reservations... 425-5520

OPEN 6 DAYS

MONDAY - SATURDAY

12:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

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