



{Eating Out}

{Tableau Bar Bistro opens in Vancouver's Loden Hotel}

The **Loden Hotel**, located in Vancouver's Coal Harbour neighborhood, recently gave their restaurant an extreme makeover. New **Tableau Bar Bistro** is a complete about-face from the hotel's previous resto and is run separately from the Loden as part of the Amacon umbrella.

A French bistro with **Executive Chef Marc-André Choquette** (formerly of **Lumiere**) at the helm, the menu promises modern-classic French dishes using locally sourced fresh and organic products.

Lunch, dinner and weekend brunch is served in this new space with it's modern-classic bistro vibe, complete with leather banquettes, brass railings, black and white checkered floor tiles, and good white table linens. Falling short was the music chosen for the room -- it just didn't seem to fit, and hopefully a bug they'll work out sooner rather than later.



Lunch was very nice. I started with the French Onion Soup (when in Rome as they say....or in this case, Paris) which was a gorgeous, gooey mess of gruyere, caramelized onion and crouton in a rich, veal stock. The Moules Frites I chose as my main were very good – Saltspring Island mussels served in a black, enameled, steamer pot in a savory broth with grape tomatoes, Italian parsley and fennel, with salty, crisp frites on the side.

Dessert? A classic chocolate éclair with loads of vanilla bean custard filling and a strong Americano to sip with. Lovely.

On another visit I plan to grab some pals, choose a decent bottle from Tableau's French-influenced wine list (please add a Sancerre!) and tuck into a charcuterie plate. God-willing, this will take place on the soon-to-be-opened patio, you know – when spring finally arrives, perhaps in July. (note: written in a rainy, still-freezing-cold month of May)

Tableau's sure to be a swishy night spot as well, with a sexy bar serving up classic cocktails like Sazerac, Georgia Mint Julep, and Pastis.

PS....Lunch and dinner daily specials will allow Chef MAC to show of his skills with BC's seasonal best. Already looking forward to Friday's Halibut Cobb Salad, served with Ocean Wise fish of course.

Tableau Bar Bistro • 1181 Melville Street, Vancouver • 604 639 8692 • www.TableauBarBistro.com

Catherine Dunwoody is a freelance writer based in Vancouver.