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The Bistro at Bernard's.

Bistro Opens at Bernard's Market & Café

For four evenings a week, Bernard's Market & Café, a gourmet/specialty market destination in Glen Head transforms its Café into a Bistro, complete with a menu, valet service, and a stellar wine list.

Separated from the market by a beaded chain wall, the Bistro is a space appointed with flowers, candles, platinum gray curtains and vintage mirrors. Boutique wine bottles are arrayed on an Italian marble counter.

While the four-year-old Bernard's Market & Café has made its mark as a destination for fine food shopping, according to *The New York Times*, which cited it as "an emporium of the delicious" with "four-star takeout," the Bistro is the market's first foray as a restaurant and wine bar.

Expanding into the bistro business was a natural for Bernard's, said Mike Mohr, co-owner. "Our concept was to have a restaurant setting in a wonderful architectural space," he said. "With fantastic food at an affordable price. Chef John Doran is very talented and pays great attention to detail. His years of experience and knowledge allow him to create unique dishes."

The Bistro menu is a modern mix of

classic Bistro fare, including French, Italian and American dishes, said Chef Doran, a graduate of the French Culinary Institute with years of chef experience. "Keep it simple and elegant," he said. "We start with quality ingredients, fresh from the market. Everything is prepared classically, in-house, including our desserts. We plan to change our menu to suit the seasons." The Bistro just unveiled its Summer menu.

The Bistro features a selection of boutique wines from around the world, along with fine ports to finish off a perfect dinner. "The Bistro is a unique space inside of a gourmet market," remarked Gustav Hausser, local restaurateur and wine consultant, who mentioned that there would be outdoor seating coming as the weather allows. "It offers a good value for the dollar and an affordable wine list by the glass or bottle. We will be having wine tasting parties and wine dinners in the future, so stay tuned."

Bistro at Bernard's is open Wednesday through Saturday evenings, located at 716 Glen Cove Avenue, Glen Head. Phone: 759-9100; and web www.bernardsmarket.com.