



raskin

the best of everything

Top Fiddler



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The Fiddler offers Russian cuisine and so much more.

When he opened the doors as The Fiddler's new owner in 2011, Sam Ismailov learned one of many important things former owner, the late Mike Kuchersky, knew ... That to be a good Russian restaurant, it must have foods of other cultures as well ... Sounds crazy, but quite true because it also applies to many other ethnic restaurants ... Along with his authentic Russian presentations, the successes of both Mike and present owner Sam Ismailov of Fiddler on Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, are due to their cognizance of having additional dining options to offer others.

Sam also became noted for his authentic presentations of Russian borscht, stuffed cabbage, chicken cutlets, beef stroganoff, cheese blintzes, soups, etc., in a long listing of Russian delights ... But there is also Cornish hen and Australian ranch-free, cage-free lamb among other hormone and antibiotic-free meats, etc.

Also of much importance was the self-insistent desire of keeping prices steady for the past three or four years.

Because of these



dedicated desires, Fiddler may be a true Russian restaurant, but with additions for everyone to enjoy ... Varied European and Middle-Eastern cuisines ... Seafood platters, vegetarian options, lamb chops, hot Ukrainian borscht with a slight sweet tang, meat blintzes, red caviar.

I am not speaking about a large restaurant ... Seating in the main dining room is only for about 50 or 60 people, along with eight bar stools ... A second room used mainly for overflow and occasions is much larger and available when needed ... And when warm weather ever comes, there will be outside seating.

Violin music on Saturdays ... Piano stylings on Fridays ... Hours of operation are Tuesday-Sunday, dinner from 5 p.m. ... Sunday brunch, noon to 4 p.m.

There is much good to be said about Fiddler Restaurant ... And it is said by many.

THE NEW CASUAL fine dining contemporary American restaurant recently opened on the site of what eventually may become a "tribute" to the memory of its late founder, Tony Gojcaj ... Chef's Table 12, no affiliation with any chain and having its own name copyrights, on the site

of the former Tribute, 12 Mile, just west of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills ... had formerly been open only for dinner ... However, it is now also open for lunch from 11-3 ... Dinner hours are Monday-Thursday, 5-10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5-11 p.m. ... See many familiar face employees at Chef's Table 12, operated by Tony's wife, Ophelia.

REARVIEW MIRROR ... Customers suddenly got up from their tables, years back at Henry Warsaw's Normandy Grill on Grand Boulevard, when told that the gent at the piano was a noted composer seeing a play with his music at the Fisher Theater across the street ... He was asked to hit the ivories on Cole Porter's wonderful "Night and Day," which he went right into with closed eyes, smiling delight and a happy nod of his head while playing his wonderful "Night and Day," one of the favorite tunes of Porter's wife, Linda.

GOOD SERVER DEPT ... Service with a smile ... I like that ... Makes dining so much better ... As exemplified by waitress Ilyse DeNike at Pickles & Rye Deli, West Bloomfield Plaza, Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield ... Along with her polite efficiency and want-to-please assistance.

MAIL DEPT ... From Rachel Kapen ... "I remember liking the Bangkok Cuisine Thai restaurant in Crosswinds Mall, West Bloomfield, and commenting about it in your column, mentioning, too, that the soup was too spicy for my delicate taste. After showing it to the manager, he invited me for another bowl on the house. My eldest son came here from Virginia with a cold and said that he would like to go to a restaurant where its spicy food could open his sinuses. We went to Bangkok Cuisine, and it seemed to serve my son's purpose and then some. We liked indicating how spicy or not we wanted certain Thai dishes and enjoyed a pleasant dining experience."

OLDIE BUT GOODIE ... When the elderly gent had reached the age of 85, he suddenly began chasing the young chicks. A neighbor brought this behavior to the attention of his wife. "Whatta you gonna do about it?" she asked.

"Who cares?" said the wife. "Let him chase girls! Dogs chase cars, but when they catch them, they can't drive!"

CONGRATS ... To Maurice and Mildred Wilson on their 60th anniversary. 🍷

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Sam and Irina Ismailov