



FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2013

## Basil Expands Beyond the Brick Oven



**Basil Brick Oven** (28-17 Astoria Blvd., Astoria) -- closed Wednesdays

When Basil held its grand reopening last fall, patrons enjoyed a newly expanded dining room that nearly quadrupled the original seating capacity, along with a front cafe featuring a gelato counter. But that was merely a small taste of what the team at Basil Brick Oven aspired to offer. As the summer months approach, a glimpse out the back window reveals a rapidly developing outdoor space which will include backyard patio seating.

### WHAT IS AMUSE \* BOUCHE?

*A hodgepodge of individual, bite-sized musings. It is my hope that these nibbles, like an amuse-bouche, will not only whet your palate, but also expose a porthole into my adventures with cooking and dining... as well as living and thriving in New York City.*

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### FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES

While my quick snapshots can be seen on my site, around the internet, and in various publications (winner of the 2011 Metro Food Photo Challenge), my professional photography can be seen monthly in BORO Magazine, and on several New York City restaurant websites. For extremely competitive rates (all-inclusive packages with post-production and retouching), please e-mail [bradleyhawks@bradleyhawks.com](mailto:bradleyhawks@bradleyhawks.com). I can provide images for websites, social media, business cards, promotional materials, and even artwork.

### PITCH IN...

*Amuse\*Bouche is my attempt at sharing unique culinary & cultural experiences with my friends and readers. Until some fancy NY magazine picks me up or I get a book deal, all expenses come from my own wallet. Any donation you might want to offer would be so greatly appreciated. On my wish list: 1) (UPDATE: I was just graciously*



The 'fettucini aragosta' features al dente noodles tossed in a tangy diavolo sauce with buttery herbed breadcrumbs that add crunch, all beneath a freshly steamed succulent half lobster.



Enormous, tender breaded calamari rings are served with a haystack of zucchini and carrot ribbons.



Biscuits, gravy, and honky-tonk at The Strand Smokehouse



Astoria's Ukus will soon be truckin' to Manhattan



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Plump, porcini-encrusted diver sea scallops are wrapped in bacon and served in a trio over thick, creamy polenta with truffle shavings.



Perhaps my personal favorite was this outrageously delicious rendition of an Italian-American classic, 'homemade beef lasagna al forno' under bubbly blankets of baked mozzarella.

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**FEATURED WRITER ON WLA**



*Chef Danny makes over 60 pounds of homemade mozzarella each day... enjoyed here in a panini.*

Other new items include a filet of sole and mussels in a white wine caper sauce, ribeye steak, and an oven roasted rosemary salmon. Guests can also expect to see a few new pizzas join the already over 40 pies currently on the menu, as well as a few other pastas, panini, and salads. Be sure to save room for the popular tiramisu, served over a cocoa dust stencil-adorned plate.

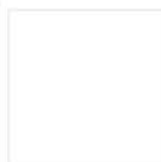
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