

restaurant Review

Bill's Of Bloomfield Hills

By: Connie Hogan
Photography by: Kerry Bowman

For those of us long-time Bloomfield Hills residents who admittedly still miss the iconic Fox and Hounds on occasion, it has been such a joy to viscerally witness the rebirth of the legend in the form of Bill's of Bloomfield Hills.

On a recent snowy January evening, a rather large group of our readers were treated to the absolute best evening we've experienced in a long time. Lea Schofield, the incomparable general manager of Bill's, and staff including Travis, Ashley and Kristin, went all out to attend to our every whim. Bill Roberts himself—aka Bill's namesake— even stopped by for a quick hello.

Bill's is a contemporary take on the old-fashioned social club. Sitting where the storied and celebrated Fox & Hounds once stood, Bill's inherits the long 80-year tradition of this historic neighborhood hub at the corner of Long Lake and Woodward Avenue. Bill's incorporates the food of a French bistro, Italian trattoria and American social club in a setting that is modern but distinctly local, drawing inspiration from the neighborhood and its rich history. The walls are filled with old photographs sourced with the aid of the Bloomfield Historical Society and the Cranbrook Archives. They are a subtle reminder of the history of this corner, but blended with French, Italian and American culinary traditions.

So on this evening we started out with amazing cocktails and craft beers, followed by a stellar four course offering from an extraordinarily classy custom menu ...

To begin our adventure, the "Amuse Bouche" featured CAVIAR PIE of steelhead roe, chopped, egg, sour cream, scallions on brioché. Just to-die-for!

Then everyone was served a first course of HARRIS O. salad of romaine, iceberg, crumbled Roquefort, bacon, tomato, red onion in a zesty sweet and sour dressing. This was the perfect pairing for any of the main courses to follow.

We then chose from five amazing main course selections. The BERKSHIRE PORK CHOP featured French beans, onion



Stephanie Krawiecs and Stephanie Brigstock.



John and Donna Affeldt.

rings and pears, all in maple bourbon sauce. The BRANZINO is a sea bass with beluga lentils, frisee in Dijon vinaigrette. MEATBALLS featured polenta, tomato basil sauce, with house ricotta. Another seafood choice was the FRUTTI DI MARE of linguine, scallops, shrimp, mussels, and octopus in an arrabiata sauce. Finally there was a BUTTERNUT SQUASH RISOTTO with Tuscan kale and lemon mascarpone.

Our DESSERT selections were FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE CAKE with port wine reduction and whipped cream and CARROT CAKE with maple mascarpone frosting. Needless to say, our guests were brimming with praise for all of the aforementioned. Some of the glowing comments include ...

Kevin Hart of Kevin Hart and Associates, acclaimed Birmingham architects, and his sister Mara Filo, loved the entire dining experience. We had an especially animated dinner conversation, hopefully not to annoy our tablemates, since all three of us are Notre Dame alums. Mara loved everything and especially the warm and friendly staff, the neighborhood feel of the place! Kevin loved the bread, wine and FRUTTI DI MARE. And



One of the popular dinner entrees, Berkshire Pork Chop with maple bourbon sauce.



Tom, Stephanie and Marie Brigstock.



Lea Scofield, General Manager of Bill's and the Michigan Restaurant Association's 2015 General Manager of the Year.

being one to judge as a celebrated architect, he was very complimentary of the lighting and mixture of rustic and traditional decor.

Miron Sarkissian loved the PORK CHOP and really loved the atmosphere but did comment it was a bit noisy. This is because everyone was having such a fun time! Angela Sarkissian also loved the PORK CHOP, saying it was tender and tasty. She says she will come back!

Stephanie Brigstock said the HARRIS O salad made a lasting impression and the FRUTTI DI MARE was incredible. She loved the lighting, chandelier and bar set-up. Brigitte Krawiec liked the MEATBALLS and Stephanie loved the BRANZINO and commented that the risotto balls were better than most Italian restaurants!

Alison Kapur ordered the BRANZINO and thought it was great, as did I! She also liked the risotto balls with tomato sauce, which was an extra appetizer that was not on our custom menu. She also commented, as did so many people, that the PORK CHOP was great! Subhash Kapur loved the CARROT CAKE

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Constantine and Genie P'sachoulis.

and the wall photos in the dining room. Both loved the decor, the beams and agreed with me that it's lovely to have this restaurant so close to home.

Srikruthi Kakwavarapu thought the RISOTTO was phenomenal and the CAKE was the highlight of the evening. Isn't dessert always? The staff was inviting and warm. John and Donna Affeldt both had the BRANZINO and loved it, as well as the risotto balls and CARROT CAKE. They commented that the place is very cozy and friendly.

While we felt wrapped in comfortable luxury, every inch of the dining room is reminiscent of an opulent club, from the tufted leather booths to the deep, dark walls covered in ornately

framed artwork. Sumptuous, but not stuffy, the menu is full of innovative dishes.

I also love Bill's Social Hour, with awesome specialty cocktails such as the Limoncello and Midnight Kiss. As we experienced in the comfortably unpretentious dining room or my many summer evenings in the cloistered and covered garden courtyard ... always classy and comfortable ... Bill's is your old-fashioned club in a new, spirited home.

*Bill's of Bloomfield Hills. 248.646.9000
39556 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills*

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