



Editors' CHOICE

Four Seasons Restaurant

AS ONE OF THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT RESTAURANTS in the world, the midtown Manhattan-based Four Seasons (www.fourseasonsrestaurant.com) is wildly popular among locals and critics who appreciate Chef Pecko's delightful culinary classics and innovative seasonal dishes.

Among two dining room offerings, the Pool Room features an extensive à la carte menu, as well as the deal-of-the-decade \$59 three-course menu, which changes seasonally to satisfy any palate and wallet. Diners will revel in crisp salads, tuna and steak tartares prepared table side, Dover sole, and the restaurant's signature farmhouse duck, touted as "the best in the city of New York" by *The New York Times*.

The Grill Room boasts luminous French walnut-paneled walls and soaring two-story windows, and offers a simple menu of Maryland crabmeat cakes, burgers, perfectly grilled fish, impressive rack of lamb, and the filet of bison, which was awarded "Dish of the Year" by *Q* magazine.

In addition, the Four Seasons offers three private spaces that cater to discreet business meetings and weddings, as well as attention-getting product launches and, most recently, *Food & Wine* magazine's recent "Best New Chefs" awards celebration.

As Manhattan's only landmarked restaurant, the Four Seasons opened in 1959 and was designed by Philip Johnson and Mies van der Rohe, two of the 20th century's most influential architects. Every part of the restaurant was conceived and created to celebrate modern architecture's International Style. Today, every piece of the restaurant's furnishings – from the chairs and banquettes to the glasses, and metal bread baskets – are part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art. ●

Clockwise from the upper left: crisp farmhouse duck; the Bar; the Grill Room; 41st U.S. President George H.W. Bush and Mrs. Bush with owners Alex von Bidder and Julian Niccolini; soft-shell crab; 42nd U.S. President Bill Clinton with von Bidder, then chef Christian Albin, and Niccolini; the Pool Room

