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# River Bend Bistro & Wine Bar

Posted by [Eugene Smith](#) / 17 Mar 2016

If you are like me, then you give kudos to those people who can find a way to be exceptional, without being eccentric. I feel that there's a place and time for everything, and when I sit down to eat is normally not the time for a circus act of death-defying feats. I think of food as quality ingredients brought to you by a Chef; the resident "steward of flavors".

When a Chef makes a commitment to creating a restaurant, there is probably something special that they stumbled across in their own culinary adventure that is worth honoring, preserving and sharing. That is what I think has happened with Chef Caroline Ross and her River Bend Bistro and Wine Bar. After having a meal there I am confident that Ross has definitely found that "something special" in the Mt. Vernon region of Alexandria Virginia, because her meticulous care is evident bite after bite.

I can appreciate the time Chef Ross spent creating a menu that ties in local seasonal ingredients that shine through with every dish I tasted. Her use of Sage & Oyster Stuffing for a Rainbow Trout was a wonderful example of using an idea usually reserved for Thanksgiving to elevate a piece of fish in a positive yet understated way.

The Steak Tartar was a lesson in balance; with tart capers cutting through the fatty savory beef. Her Chess Pie served with Crme Frachewith Cherries uses freshly ground cornmeal from the very same mill George Washington used centuries ago. Plus with her restaurant being located on what would have been Washington's property, (*less than a mile or two from historic Mt. Vernon*) who could resist adding cherries to anything?

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If you get a chance to visit Mt. Vernon, be sure to plan a meal at the River Bend Wine Bar & Bistro located:

Hollin Hall Shopping Center  
7966 Fort Hunt Rd.  
Alexandria, VA 22308  
703-347-7545  
[www.riverbendbistro.com](http://www.riverbendbistro.com)

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