



Making an impression

Charlotte's brings a style of its own to Millbrook.

We always made a promise to ourselves never to try a new restaurant, whether an entirely new restaurant or a name change. We figure it isn't fair to judge a restaurant before the owners have time to iron out the kinks and get themselves established. Well, we broke our promise and decided to try Charlotte's on Route 44 in Millbrook. Well-established for years as Allyn's, it had changed hands a few months before our visit.

It was about 5 p.m. as we pulled into the parking lot, which already had one car. As we were getting out of the car, another vehicle pulled in with two people. The side garden was rich with bright yellow rudbeckia, tall and in a full round arrangement.

There was a post with a birdhouse and some vines creeping up the post. Also, several clusters of huge green plants and tall grasses formed a partial wall around several round tables with four chairs for outside dining.

While looking around at this pleasant scene, we noticed two waitresses going in and out of the side door, which is the main entranceway. We started to enter when a young man, with hands full of dinner plates, was about to come out. We waved him to come ahead, wondering where these armfuls of repasts were going. We looked around and behind one of the high green plant walls were two ladies sitting at the hidden table, being served their dinner.

We entered a small hall and then the main dining room. One of the waitresses we'd seen scurrying in and out of the main entrance asked if we had reservations; "no" was our reply, and then we were told we could sit wherever we would like. Since this was a Thursday evening and we were the first diners in the dining room, our choice was a cozy corner table for four in front of a large window, giving us a nice view of the garden with the lovely flowers.

The waitress gave us our menus, while Romeo and I were looking around the charming room. The ceiling was painted a deep barn red, including the beams, as was the wainscoting on the walls. Each table sported a bright yellow tablecloth, giving a cheery glow to the room. Also, each table had a small vase of different



Getting there ...

Charlotte's Restaurant & Catering

4258 Route 44, Millbrook
(845) 677-5888

Wed., Thurs., dinner, 5-9:30 p.m.
Fri., dinner, 5-10:30 p.m.
Sat., lunch, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sat., dinner, 5-10:30 p.m.
Sun., lunch menu, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sun., brunch menu, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sun., dinner, 5-9:30 p.m.
Closed Mon. & Tues.

- ♥♥♥♥♥ – Food
- ♥♥♥♥♥ – Service
- ♥♥♥♥♥ – Ambiance
- ♥♥♥♥♥ – Value

graceful orange flowers. There was a fireplace which I'm sure in cold weather not only gives a nice atmosphere, but provides warmth to diners. Off to the opposite corner from where we were seated, there were two doorways. One led to a terrace-like room with a door leading to a banquet room.

The other doorway led to the small, intimate

barroom. Going up two steps, our first sight was of another fireplace and two tables each sporting large comfortable looking cushioned chairs. To the right was a fairly large bar with several bar stools. At the time we were there, only two people were sitting at the bar and later a couple came in and sat at one of the special tables with the plushy chairs. Going through the barroom into a small hallway were the restrooms: One spacious area, with little rooms for privacy, all clean and pleasant.

After talking and observing our surroundings, we decided to open our menus, but realized the only connection we'd had with anyone was a waitress filling our water glasses. We thought this rather strange that no one was there to take our drink order, since there were several girls hurrying about. With that a young man, the one whose hands were full going out the door upon our entering, greeted us and took our drink order, apologizing for the delay. Soon after, one of the waitresses came over and asked if we would like to order a drink. Seems there was some misconnection between the help. Another young girl presented us with a basket of bread and a small crock of butter. The bread was obviously homemade, a rich, tasty Italian/French sort. It would have been even better if warmed.