

foodnotes 

Trusted Sources report that the food's pretty darn tootin' at Miss Lucy's, the down-home eatery that opened on Saugerties' Partition Street in May last year. The place is cute, too, very country farmhouse, with yellow gingham cafe curtains, fashionably distressed paint, mix and match wooden furniture, and lots of old-fangled kitchenware on the walls so you can marvel at how anybody ever managed to cook with it while you wait for your food. (OK, in the spirit of journalistic accuracy, it should be noted that the Trusted Sources, Manhattan sophisticates, didn't actually say the food was darn tootin'; they said really, really good.)

Chef-owner Marc Propper and his wife, Michelle Silver, once owned the Greenwich Village restaurant Grove, and spent their free time at their country place in Saugerties. Like lots of weekenders, they dreamed of moving up to the Valley, and a couple of years ago they did just that, settling in along with their daughter Lucy, now 6, (for whom the restaurant is named) and son Eli, 3. "I have to name something after him, too, or he'll have all sorts of complexes," Propper notes. "At least a sandwich." (Hmmm. A sandwich?)

The menu is Traditional American. "It's home cooking, but with a lot of different ethnic things," says Propper, 40. "I suppose it's New York-style home cooking, with a twist of French, because my mom is French." A member of the Slow Food movement, Propper goes to great lengths to get the best organic produce; wild, net-

caught fish, and all-natural poultry and meats that are raised and butchered locally. It's one of the reasons, he says, that the menu changes daily. "When you buy a whole animal, you have to play with the different cuts. But rotating things keeps it interesting, for me and for the customer."

Dishes might include comfort food like buttermilk fried chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy, or something more swanky like pan-seared duck breast with wild rice cake and cherry sauce. Michelle makes all the desserts and spins the ice-cream.

There's a \$5 kids' menu with hot dogs, mac-and-cheese and other stuff the little barbarians will eat. Grown-up fare is reasonably priced, too, with entrées ranging from \$14 to \$19. Miss Lucy's serves lunch and dinner every day, and the kitchen stays open until 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays for all you night owls. 845-246-9240.



Country chic at Miss Lucy's in Saugerties