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Heavenly Fish and Tuna Melt: Notable Names Dine In

By ELAINE LOUIE

BOLDFACE names, artists and power couples don't always eat where they can be spotted. Sometimes they order in, just like the rest of us.

WILLIAM WEGMAN, the photographer, lives in Chelsea with his wife; their son, 10; daughter, 7; and three Weimaraners. He said: "The kids order plain cheese pizza from Don Giovanni" - 214 10th Avenue, (212) 242-9054 - "probably once a week. I just eat the crusts of the eaten pieces. The dogs wait in case there are leftovers."

DAMIEN FAHEY, the host of "Total Request Live" on MTV, lives in Hell's Kitchen. "I'm a very habitual, routine-based person," he said. "I go to work around 1 p.m. So every day around 12, five days a week, I have pasta delivered to my house from Don Giovanni" - its twin, at 358 West 44th Street, (212) 581-4939. "I love the chicken parmigiana over a bed of penne. The ravioli is delicious, and sometimes I'll have the chicken française with a great lemon sauce."

JOHN HOCKENBERRY, the NBC News correspondent, lives with his wife and their two sets of twins, 6½ and 3½, in Dumbo, Brooklyn. "We moved there in 1998," he said, "and we have the restaurant Rice" - 81 Washington Street, (718) 222-9880 - "one of the first places in Manhattan to come over and show up when we were desolate. It was probably around 2000 and has wonderful quirky food. I order the black rice, with mango chutney on the side, a chicken satay and tamales.

"The other place is Tutt Cafe," 47 Hicks Street, (718) 722-7777. "We have the merguez sausage pita sandwich and the falafel sandwich. The people are so sweet, and we love them, and they never hesitated to come down to Dumbo after dark."

JEFFREY KALINSKY, the owner of the store Jeffrey, lives in Chelsea and eats constantly at Pastis, 9 Ninth Avenue, (212) 929-4844. "It is truly the restaurant I frequent most," he noted. "At home I order hamburger and French fries, my favorite dish. The fries arrive fairly crisp, unfortunately. They are unfortunate for my waistline. I've had monkfish delivered, and the croque monsieur, and the Caesar salad with grilled chicken. Since they started delivering, it's a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful thing."

SARAH JONES, the playwright and performer in "Bridge and Tunnel," and Steve Colman, her partner, live in Greenwich Village. "We order five nights a week, and the other nights we go out," she said. "Our kitchen is very clean all the time. The show I do is multicharacter-based, and the neighborhood provides all my characters. Tea & Sympathy" - 108 Greenwich Avenue, (212) 807-8329 - "provides my English characters. They're very sweet, and normally I get the tuna melt and the bangers, bacon and beans. There's no need for vegetables at all.

"My other favorite is the Soy Luck Club" - 115 Greenwich Avenue, (212) 229-9191 - "a great spot for wheat-free crepes, made with spelt. You think, oh yuck, wheat-free crepe, but it's delicious with

chicken, fontina and mushrooms. You can also use soy cheese, but you don't feel like a carnivore outcast if you don't do soy."

JACQUES TORRES, the chocolatier, and Kris Kruid, his partner, live in the West 50's. Mr. Torres said: "One of my favorite places is Swizz," 310 West 53rd Street, (212) 810-4444. "When it's cold outside, and you want something on the rich side, you can order a roesti with raclette. A roesti is when you shred the potatoes, and then they put a little bit of garlic and a little bit of butter, and they sauté it like a big pie, and on top of it they put wild mushrooms and then a cheese raclette and put it under the broiler. Sometimes on my way home I park the car and stop at the restaurant because I don't want them to cover it, and so I uncover it and bring it back. It's 30 feet from my front door. But they do deliver."

TIM ZAGAT and NINA ZAGAT, the founders of the Zagat Survey, live on the Upper West Side. "The place we most often order from," he said, "at least once a week, for close to 20 years, is Shun Lee West," 43 West 65th Street, (212) 595-8895. "I love the shrimp with peanuts and the orange beef and General Tso's chicken. Nina orders the dry sautéed string beans and the sautéed eggplant."

WYNTON MARSALIS, the artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, lives on the Upper West Side and is also a big fan of Shun Lee West, especially its "heavenly" sea bass fillet. "Oooh, oooh," he crooned. "Yeah, yeah. I order maybe twice a week. Everything there is good. You can't find anything that is bad. Heavenly fish, I like the name.

"Tangerine shrimp, but they don't have that on the menu. So I ask for it anyhow, and I can get it. They are quick, 10 minutes. Only sometimes they get backed up because they are so good, and they let you know it'll be 45 minutes. I've been here for 12 to 13 years, and I've been ordering from them long enough for a small child to become an adolescent."

DAVID ROCKWELL, the architect and set designer, lives with his wife, Marcia, and their two children in TriBeCa. "We order in two or three times a week," he said. "From Sosa Borella" - 460 Greenwich Street, (212) 431-5093 - "I order grilled vegetables, grilled salmon with chimichurri sauce, which is great. Marcia gets the penne with chicken and sometimes the salmon. My 2½ year-old daughter gets mashed potatoes from there, which she calls smashed potatoes, and my 5 year-old son gets the chicken soup. If the kids are swaying the decision, we order from Bubby's" - 120 Hudson Street, (212) 219-0666 - "the chicken tacos and the chicken alphabet soup."

SHEILA BRIDGES, the interior designer, lives in Harlem. "I order in two to three times a week," she said. "Fried chicken, mac and cheese and collard greens from Amy Ruth's" - 113 West 116th Street, (212) 280-8779 - "a famous soul food restaurant. That's when I'm feeling for fried comfort food. From Native Restaurant" - 161 Lenox Avenue, (212) 665-2525 - "I always order the basil curried chicken over rice and a salad. At Slice of Harlem" - 308 Lenox Avenue, (212) 426-7400 - "I customize my pizza: sun-dried tomatoes, spinach and goat cheese. They deliver seven days a week, 10 to 10.

"I have to time my cravings because Native only delivers after 5 p.m., Amy Ruth's only delivers between Wednesday and Sunday, between noon and 10. And at lunchtime, nobody delivers except pizza. Uptown the service thing is a little bit behind."

MARIO BUATTA, the interior designer, lives on the Upper East Side. "I order in four nights a week," he said. "My favorite takeout is Dial-a-Dinner" - (212) 643-1222 - "which has menus from 30 top New York restaurants. Rosa Mexicano has the best guacamole always and a filet mignon that is absolutely delicious. I order from Mr. K's three different appetizers, the crispy beef, the dim sum and the spring rolls. I order the crispy sea bass and the Peking duck.

"Pearson's Texas Barbecue" - (170 East 81st Street, 212-288-2700) - "just started delivering, and I get the ribs, the whole chicken and creamed corn."

JENNIFER RAAB, the president of Hunter College on the Upper East Side, said: "We order from the office once or twice a week from Neil's Coffee Shop," 961 Lexington Avenue, at 70th Street; (212) 628-7474. "It looks like an old-time diner, with stools and stuff. It's cute. How come you still exist? I order a grilled chicken salad."

JANICE QUINN, the women's basketball coach at New York University, lives in Greenwich Village. "For 15 years I ordered in two meals a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," she said. "My absolute favorite is Osso Buco," 88 University Place, (212) 645-4525. "It's veal romano, veal and eggplant with their great red sauce and mozzarella and ricotta. It's off the menu in the last two years, but when I call, they make it for me anyway and deliver in 11 minutes."

PETER CINCOTTI, the pianist and recording artist, lives on the Upper West Side. "I'm living alone," he said, "and I don't cook, and I either order in three to five times a week or eat out. My favorite is Pappardella," 316 Columbus Avenue, (212) 595-7996. "I get the gnocchi, the rigatoni with tomato sauce or with the Bolognese sauce. For diner food I like the Elite Diner," 185 Columbus Avenue, (212) 724-8850. "I like the tuna fish sandwich on whole wheat toast. And I have Kitaro" - 510 Amsterdam Avenue, (212) 787-9008. "I like the sushi, the sashimi, the spicy tuna roll."

UTE LEMPER, the singer who just finished an engagement at the Carlyle, lives on the Upper West Side with her partner, Todd Turkisher; her son, 10; and her daughter, 8. "We do takeout once or twice a week," she said. "I miss this wherever I am all over the world. In New York you can get something from everywhere."

"My favorites at River" - 345 Amsterdam Avenue, (212) 579-1888 - "a Thai restaurant, are basil pork, ginger chicken and a coconut Thai soup, a very spicy soup with seafood in it. We order in from Niko's Mediterranean Grill, on Broadway and 76th Street," (212) 873-7000. "It's Mediterranean and Greek, and we like roasted leg of lamb and a fabulous hot meze with eggplant, warm seafood salad, spinach pie, crab cakes and olives."