

Long Island

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Pastrami King

-- City's Best

A deli with an upscale bistro in back.

Restaurant

Editor: ★★★★★

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From the Editors

If a deli could dream, it would probably envision a luxurious dining room with white-linen napery and oil paintings, where diners could extol the craftsmanship of the cold-cut slice and relish the relish. Patrons of the Pastrami King restaurant (which is connected to the deli) are living this dream, but with much more to choose from than just sandwiches and soup. The dining room is simple and elegant, and the tables occupy their own little province of wood floor, just within a flickering boundary of candlelight. So forget the bologna, and sit down to a succulent brisket of beef with potato pancakes, applesauce and gravy. Or turn to the "Health Corner" section of the menu, where you can ostensibly relieve the arteries with -- no joke -- Southern fried-chicken salad. Who could argue with an elegant dining room with an eclectic menu, not to mention gefilte fish with horseradish? -- *Simon Van Booy* (Photo: Simon Van Booy)