

Serendipity 3
225 East 60th Street (between Second and Third Avenue)
New York, NY 10022

Serendipity-Doo-Dah!

If Willy Wonka lived on the Upper East Side and decided to open a restaurant, I have a feeling it would be a lot like Serendipity. This truly fun place is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, and for good reason. Part toy store, part malt shop, part luncheonette, it is the kind of place where the food, service, and general pleasant vibe will put a smile on the face of the crustiest of curmudgeons.

Serendipity has a large menu – and I mean that literally – that features everything from burgers and sandwiches to chicken, fish, and pasta. Prices are on the high side but portions are very generous. I highly recommend the caviar and sour cream omelette, which is big, delicious, and beautifully garnished with black lumpfish roe, sour cream, onions, and cucumber, served with delectable challah toast.

As good as the entrees are, they are merely an excuse for dessert. Some restaurants are famous for one signature dish and here that is their mandatory dessert called Frozen Hot Chocolate. It is sin in a bowl. Imagine a chocolate malt colliding with warm chocolate pudding with a liberal topping of whipped cream and chocolate flakes. It is perfect for sharing and will leave you so satisfied you may need a cigarette afterwards. Oddly enough, I noticed several diners actually beginning their meals with this!

The service here is terrific. All of the wait staff and management look like they just stepped out of a J. Crew catalogue. They are attentive, friendly, and add to the whole enjoyment of the experience.

Serendipity is popular with children but thankfully the restaurant does not allow strollers or carriages inside, so the kids are a little older and, on the occasions I have been here, well-behaved. No little monsters running through the joint screaming.

Serendipity is a memorable place worth repeated visits.

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