



# Isn't it Romantic?

Fall in love with the Central Park Boathouse • *By Rachel Bowie*

**F**or the romantic New Yorker, the Central Park Boathouse just may be as good as it gets. The reason? It's a combination of things — the atmosphere, the ambiance, the food — but mostly because it is, quite simply, a classic.

Nestled in the heart of Central Park (not far from the entrance at 72nd Street on Fifth Avenue), the Boathouse's setting is its biggest asset, and one that immediately sets it apart from other restaurants of its kind. An epicenter of activity year-round, it appeals to all ages and desires — grab a cup of hot chocolate to go, sip a glass of champagne at the bar, dine lakeside for lunch and, in the warmer months, dinner — there really is something for everyone. Diners will appreciate the touch of nostalgia that hangs in the air, not to mention the innate elegance and charm of an establishment that has been around for decades.

And recent renovations have made this New York institution better than ever. Since taking over as operator almost 10 years ago, Dean Poll, a restaurateur from Long Island, has made dramatic improvements. Beginning with the cuisine, skillfully prepared by

Executive Chef Anthony Walton, the menu boasts dishes designed to satisfy a range of appetites. Indulge in an afternoon snack — the lump crab cakes are incredible — or choose from fare that is more filling. The Boathouse salad and Boathouse burger are staple menu items that should be tried at least once, but other options (the sautéed red snapper, pan roasted halibut or grilled shrimp Provençal) are also good.

Poll's attention to detail is clear. In addition to the food, a number of structural updates have been made, including the winterization of the outdoor terrace, crucial to



**Central Park Boathouse**  
 Fifth Avenue at 72nd Street,  
 212-517-2233;  
[thecentralparkboathouse.com](http://thecentralparkboathouse.com)

the high-profile events (weddings, charity events, movie premieres) that the Boathouse plays host to year-round.

A walk in the park needs a destination — and this is it. ■

