

THE BEST OF Bethesda

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007 \$3.95

50 READERS' FAVORITES

INCLUDING

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67 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT BETHESDA

PLUS

Slavery in the County Is Homework Worth It?
Being Alice McDermott Ashley Marriott's Wedding

Bethesda / Chevy Chase / Gaithersburg / Kensington / Potomac / Rockville / Silver Spring



BEST FOOD

67 THINGS WE LOVE

11

Damian Salvatore, owner and chef of Persimmon, voted "Best Restaurant" last year by *Bethesda Magazine's* readers—proof that nice guys can finish first.

12

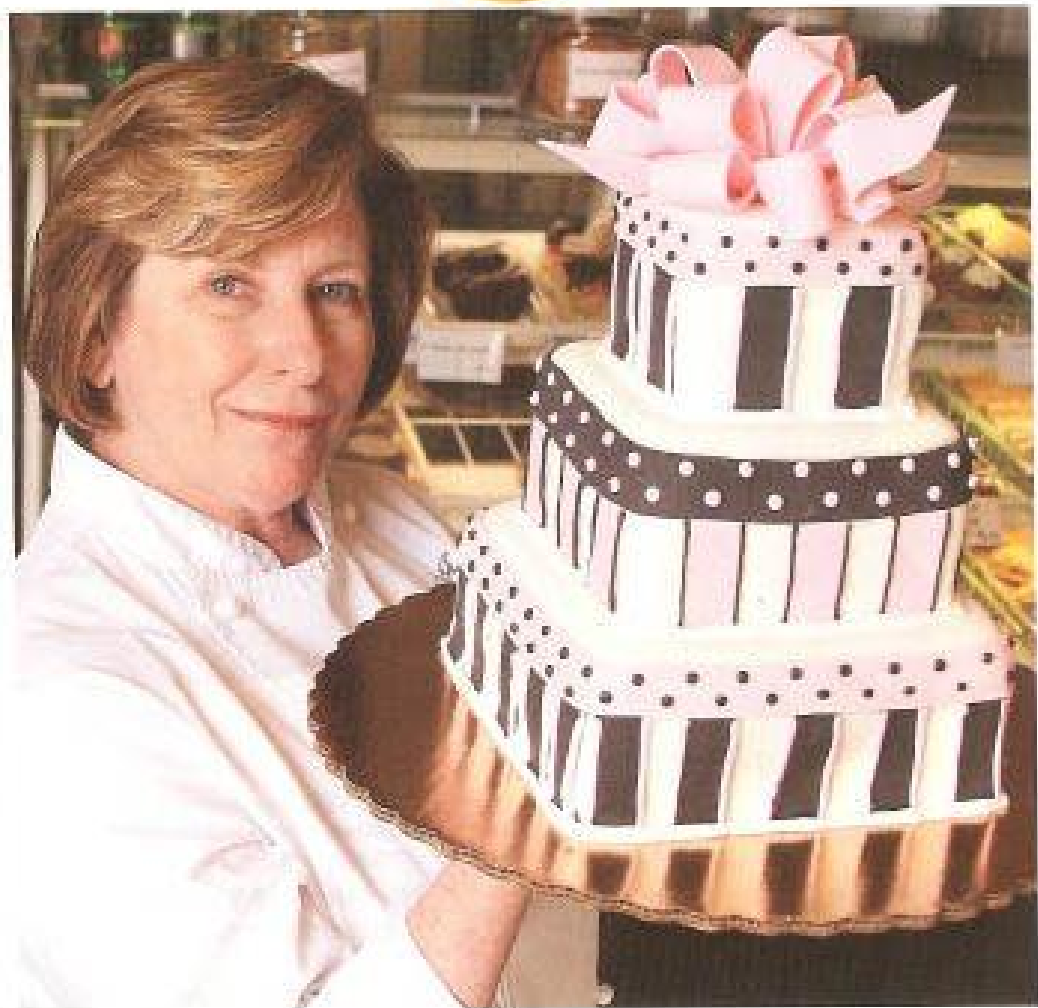
The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. How can an all-volunteer squad be among the best in the country?

13

Rockville Pike. Yes, Rockville Pike. Everything is there, which means it doesn't have to be anywhere else.

14

Gifford's Double Scoop Swiss Chocolate Sundae. Your stomach says "Yes" and your mind says "No." But your stomach—and a Lipitor—usually win.



BEST CAKES: Just Cakes

Marge Schinnerer of Bethesda opened Just Cakes (4849 Rugby Ave., 301-718-5111) in 2003. "I really wanted to open an American bakery with butter cream and old-fashioned layer cakes," Schinnerer says. Though those traditional favorites are the Bethesda bakery's biggest sellers, she says, "wedding cakes and custom cakes are really our specialty." One specialty cake is a detailed replica of a Louis Vuitton bag. Everything in Just Cakes is made from scratch, and though Schinnerer hates the low-calorie trend, she is happy to adapt her sweets for special needs.

RUNNERS-UP 🍩 STELLA'S BAKERY 🍩 BALDUCCI'S 🍩 WHOLE FOODS MARKET 🍩 CREATIVE CAKES

BEST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT: Old Angler's

With comfy sofas arranged around a crackling fireplace in winter, and an inviting garden terrace with a sculptured fountain in summer, Old Angler's Inn (10801 McArthur Blvd., Potomac, 301-299-9097) exudes a seductive charm that attracts countless lovers for a romantic meal—and often a marriage proposal—near the Potomac River. Infused with history (Civil War couriers stopped through when it was

more roadhouse than upscale inn), Old Angler's also holds its own in the kitchen, recognized by a host of awards for "Chef Paul" Dueiraogo's contemporary American cuisine. Especially popular among couples: Chateaubriand or rack of lamb for two.

RUNNERS-UP 🍴 PERSIMMON 🍴 LA MICHÉ
🍴 LA FERME 🍴 GIUPPESOLD

Just Cakes

www.justcakes.net



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4849 Rugby Avenue
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301.718.5111

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Half Moon Bay Resort, Jamaica
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Just Cakes
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Whether you dream of a wedding as formal as a Viennese waltz, or as spirited as a Virginia reel, the member vendors of Bethesda Bridal and Event Group can help you plan all your steps. Offering the very highest quality and conveniently located in close proximity, our unique consortium of companies provides every imaginable product and service — from engagement rings to honeymoon travel planning. And, by using one of the member vendors, you become a treasured client to us all — and receive valuable savings and rewards. Visit us online at www.bethesdabridal.com or call 301 652 0111 for information.

Hitched Bridal Salon

1523 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington
202-333-6162
www.hitchedbridalsalon.com

Like a breath of fresh air, **Hitched** opened in Georgetown to raves from young professionals who have more on their plates than wedding cake. This highly personal bridal boutique, which carries the gorgeous new line by Oscar de la Renta, is resource central, giving brides a kaleidoscope of products and services.

Guest accommodations

Bethesda Court Hotel

7740 Wisconsin Ave.
Bethesda
301-656-2100

www.bethesdacourthousebdc.com

Bethesda Court Hotel, with 74 newly appointed guest rooms, is modeled on the warm service of a traditional B&B. For your Bethesda-area wedding guests, this is an ideal base, 1.5 blocks from the Metro. English tea is served every afternoon.

The Washington Room, a spacious two-room bridal suite facing the fountain courtyard, accommodates a seated gathering of 12.

Cakes

Just Cakes

4849 Rugby Ave
Bethesda
301-718-5111
www.justcakes.net

Whether wild or conservative in appearance, confections from **Just Cakes** are the kind Grandma made if she had time and talent. Everything is made from scratch, so special requests are welcome and the sky's the limit.

Owner Marge Schinnerer offers brides not one but two tastings. At the first there's a sampling of even flavor of cake, filling and icing. The couple returns to pick up small cakes Marge makes from their top choices. Marge also hosts



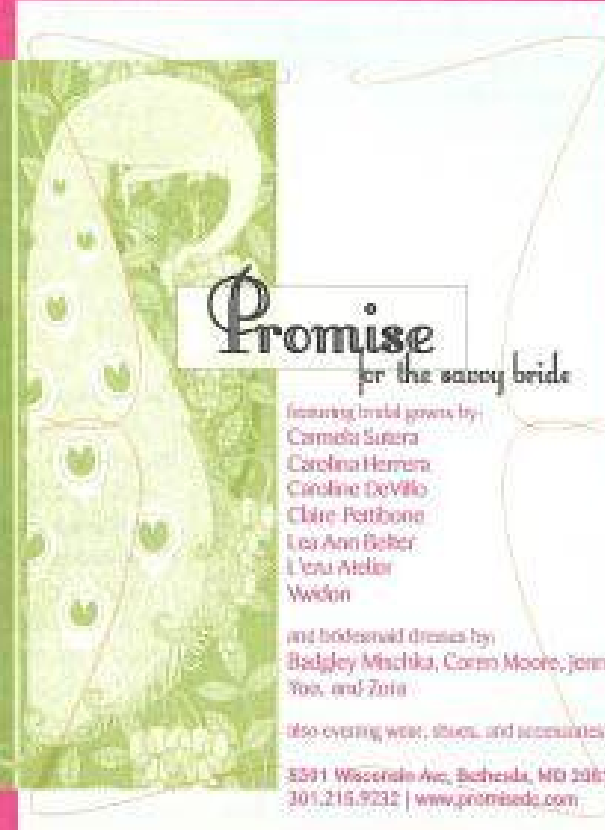
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