



Birthday Dinner: Cucina Restaurant–Woodstock, NY

By Vanessa Ahern
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I didn't know where my husband was going to take me for my birthday night dinner. Since it was my birthday, he left it up to me. I picked **Cucina** in Woodstock because it is close to home, open on Wednesdays, and it's just a nice special occasion "splurge" restaurant. Set in a restored farm house, it is very cozy and elegant. They had a dinner prix fixe—\$29 includes choice of appetizer, an entree, and dessert. We both went for the Prix Fixe. I started with the preserved tuna in olive oil with onions, tomatoes, black olives. My husband started with the pizza with mozzarella, prosciutto, and greens. (The crust is very thin, but the pizza is huge!) For entree: slow cooked salmon on mashed potatoes. He had the rib eye steak. Both entrees were melt-in-your-mouth delicious. I had the gelato sampler for dessert.

The meal was delicious from start to finish. The lights flickered on and off during the dinner due to the wind storm so that added a little drama to the meal too! Cucina is great place to bring someone for a special occasion. (Proof –a fellow diner sitting at the table next to ours was celebrating her birthday too! The server put a candle on a piece of ricotta cheesecake!) I had my cake when I came home—will post a photo of my birthday cake soon. Cucina Woodstock, 109 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock, NY 12498. (845) 679-9800. <http://www.cucinawoodstock.com>. Reservations are suggested here, especially on the weekends.