

# Dine & Unwind



Black cod with sweet onion puree, roasted beets, cauliflower, and pistachio vinaigrette.

ALL PHOTOS BY SAMIRA BOUAOU/EPOCH TIMES

# County

## The Little Restaurant That Could

By Channaly Philipp  
Epoch Times Staff

County, a remarkable little restaurant in the Flatiron District, felt immediately like home to me. Not my actual home, the place that endlessly needs tidying up, but my ideal imaginary home, elegant and comfortable, with food that I would be happy to eat every day (and someone else to cook it).

Shy of a year old, County is run by Deborah Polo, for whom the restaurant has been a labor of love. Although she has had different careers, from chocolatier and pastry chef to market researcher, she most recently made the jump from stay-at-home mother to restaurateur.

The name County denoted a sort of timeless, idyllic image of Americana for Polo, of roast chicken and succotash, and all the comfort it implies. It's New American cuisine but with global influences. "I originally thought it would be local yet global," she said. "We live in New York,

we're a city of immigrants." Polo herself grew up in the Philippines until she was 12; the executive chef, Jon Feshan, is from Iran.

The block is home to "serious restaurants," Polo said, from Barnounia, Il Mulino, and L'Express, to Gramercy Tavern. "[They] have all been very gracious in offering their help and support ... I feel like we're the engine that could," she said, "from that children's book ... 'I think I can, I think I can.'"

"Gramercy sends their overflow here," she told me, which speaks volumes about County. It exudes warmth and hospitality, a reflection as much of Polo's personality—she is a constant presence at the front of the house to welcome diners—as of the beautiful design.

County is both rustic—with walls and ceilings of deep chocolate brown wood, reclaimed from old barns in upstate New York—and modern, with a stainless steel bar and mercury glass pendant lighting.

See County on D4



Chef Jon Feshan and owner Deborah Polo.



The stainless steel bar is a popular spot.



IT IS OUR DELIGHT TO SERVE YOU  
SIMPLE, ELEGANT, BEAUTIFUL,  
JAPANESE MASTERWORKS  
TOSHIO SUZUKI, SUSHI ZEN



SUSHI ZEN

108 West 44th Street, New York | (212) 302-0707