



38 PULSE

NEW YORK POST
Sunday, April 4, 2010

MY NEW YORK



GAIL SIMMONS

LIKE so many New York transplants, "Top Chef" judge Gail Simmons was determined and hungry when she arrived here 11 years ago. Little did she know how much her achievements would satiate her appetite. "That's the magic of New York. If you have ambitions — no matter what industry you want to work in — you can find your place," says the Toronto native, who attended Peter Kump's Cooking School (now The Institute of Culinary Education). That's certainly been the case for Simmons, who joined the hit Bravo show in 2006. It's now headed into its seventh season, with the second edition of "Top Chef Masters" premiering Wednesday. Later this year, the Chelsea resident will break out in a big way as host of her very own sweet spinoff, "Top Chef: Just Desserts." This is her New York.

— CARLA SPARTOS



2 Appellation, 156 10th Ave., between 19th and 20th streets

"Appellation is a really cool wine store — it's all organic and biodynamic. They're super-knowledgeable. I certainly know a little about wine, but I don't claim to be an absolute expert. When you go to a wine store it's important to feel like you can trust them and I think they do that well."



"I'm a huge breakfast fan, and there's just an unbelievable list of great brunch places in my neighborhood. Brunch in itself is why I love New York."



3 August, 359 Bleecker St., between Charles and 10th streets

"When I want a leisurely brunch I go to August. They have this back garden with a glass ceiling, so any time of year you can sit there and feel like you're dining al fresco. They have great baked eggs and German pancakes that are huge and puffy and delicious."



1 Neue Galerie, 1048 Fifth Ave., at 86th Street
"Museum Mile can be overwhelming, but I find that the Neue Galerie is always manageable. It's a great way to spend an afternoon. They have beautiful, well-curated exhibits. Afterwards, I stop into Cafe Sabarsky for goulash."



Zaney Mangold

4 Prudence Designs, 231 W. 18th St., between Seventh and Eighth avenues

"It's a beautiful little flower and design shop most known for its floral arrangements. My husband got me flowers from there when he proposed."

6 Rose Reading Room, New York Public Library, 455 Fifth Ave., at 41st Street

"It's just the most mythical room. It's always cool in the summer and cozy in the winter. I can hole up there for hours. They have an incredible menu collection that dates back to the 1800s — back to Delmonico's and all the first grand restaurants of New York City."



Zaney Mangold

5 Despaña, 408 Broome St., between Lafayette and Centre streets

"This little shop is one of the places I love to go for specialty Spanish ingredients. They have amazing olive oils, anchovies, canned tuna and sardines, olives and artichokes."



7 Bonnie Slotnick Cookbooks, 163 W. 10th St., between Waverly Place and Seventh Avenue South

"It's this tiny vintage and rare cookbook store. It's just the most special place. She has every cookbook ever written, and if she doesn't have it she will hunt it down. Her knowledge and depth of information is incredible. I'd rather buy a cookbook from her than anyone — and I buy a lot of cookbooks. My grandmother participated in a cookbook for the Montreal chapter of Hadassah — the Jewish women's charity — in the '40s. My mom asked Bonnie if she could find it, and she tracked [it] down."



NY Post: Victoria Will

8 Phillip Lim, 115 Mercer St., between Prince and Spring streets

"You can find great stuff there for any occasion. It's feminine but edgy. I love the fabrics he uses. I'm not a perfect size 2, and I think he designs really flattering clothes for everyone."