

## **Spoon brings a new experience to the Table**

June 16, 2008

Opening September 1, 2008

Culinary maverick, Melissa Chmelar opens tablespoon, the newest addition to the Spoon family. tablespoon is founded on the idea that fresh, local ingredients and quality recipes make for culinary success. Chmelar peppers her kitchen with hand picked, seasonal organic produce grown in upstate New York at Mountain Dell Farms. Delivered daily, all produce, meats and fish are fresh, local, and organic when available. Guests enjoy gourmet delicacies in a balance between comfort and modernity.

tablespoon's ambiance reflects Melissa's adventurous childhood, part country and part rock and roll. Melissa called both New York City and rural New York her home. She acquired a love for city living, yet drew culinary inspiration from her mother's country cooking. "My mom was an amazing cook, everything we had was homemade. One day she found a jersey cow near our house upstate and had us making butter in the summer!" The family tapped maple trees, constructed scaffolding over bonfires, and gave the resulting syrup to favored teachers. Melissa grew up to pursue advanced education in the arts. Her artistic background informs her design, both architectural and culinary.

tablespoon's sought after ratouille tart is vibrant with color. Red, green, and purple vegetables brim proudly over their petit crust. Puff pastry on chicken lunch box pies entices with a golden hue, hinting at the herb chicken and cheese inside. Cupcakes take on a new freshness with cream cheese or peanut butter frosting. Delectable frosting is crowned with metallic accents, or even rock sugar. Architectural details such as original tin ceiling, wainscotting, and mismatched tables of reclaimed wood lend charm. A black marble counter and high gloss flooring brings a certain modern NYC relevance.

tablespoon is the perfect city lunch destination, as guests choose their entrée from a display and bring it to their table. This self-service enables tablespoon to offer first-rate yet well priced entrées, makes for a more comfortable atmosphere, and allows for immediate gratification. Melissa is always thinking creatively about the future by referencing the past, and adding her own modern edge. tablespoon embraces a return to old school culinary values of local ingredients and freshness. Guests pound their cutlery on the table for more.