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By MIKE COHEN

CAROLINES ON BROADWAY: For years I have walked by Carolines on Broadway (<https://www.carolines.com>), promising myself that I would one day check out this world famous comedy club.

Well I finally did so, booking a dinner and show package on a Saturday evening. I arrived at 5:45 pm, checked in and was shown to a nice table in the club where veteran server Alfred took my order – some crispy fresh cut zucchini chips to start and a main course of grilled salmon and roasted potatoes. The menu has a nice variety of choices; appetizers such as calamari, nachos and onion rings and a selection of salads and sandwiches, pastas, chicken and steaks. Strawberry shortcake, apple tart and chocolate cake are just some of the delectable dessert offerings. Of course there is a full liquor and cocktail menu.

Carolines first opened as a small cabaret club in the New York's Chelsea neighborhood in 1982. Jewish businesswoman Caroline Hirsch, a lifelong comedy fan, is the owner. For the dinner and show package, food is a la carte. You do receive priority seating in the show-room when you have dinner before the show in the supper lounge. Just arrive at the time of your reservation and you will receive your tickets to the show. If, however, you miss your dinner

reservation before the show, they will not be able to hold the reserved seats for you in the showroom and you
(Please turn to page 14)

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 6)

and you will be seated first come, first sat.

Carolines on Broadway is located at 1626 Broadway, between 49th and 50th Streets in Times Square.

WHERE TO STAY: When planning our trips to New York City, only one place to stay appears on our list and that is the historic Algonquin Hotel (www.algonquinhotel.com). Located on 44th Street near 6th Avenue, it is a mere block and a half from Times Square. In 2020 a series of renovations will commence. There is another reason why I love this hotel. When we travel we board our cat and miss her every second. The Algonquin is home to Hamlet VIII, a three and a half year-old orange cat. According to hotel executive assistant Alice De Almeida, he was originally a feral cat found in Long Island and brought to the Bide-a-wee shelter (the oldest shelter in the Big Apple), where the Algonquin then adopted him as their own. He came to the hotel in July 2017 after their former cat, Matilda III, retired. Alice came to work at this hotel in 2005 and quickly became the natural guardian of the resident cats. "I have become a real Jewish mother to our cats," she laughs.

The Algonquin then opened its doors in 1902. Today, it is part of the Marriott chain's Autograph Collection, an evolving ensemble of strikingly independent hotels.

Each of the 181 rooms and 25 suites features a comfortable well-lit work desk, as well as complimentary Wi-Fi. We stayed in a very comfortable one bedroom Playbill Suite. The layout was ideally suited for us. There is a nice sized entrance, with the exquisite master bedroom to the left. The spacious living room has a pullout couch, a large

desk which was perfect for me to write my stories and good drawer and cupboard space. You can get a fridge and a microwave, depending upon availability and on request.

In the book *The Algonquin Kid: Adventures Growing Up In New York's Legendary Hotel*, author Michael Colby tells the story of his grandparents Mary

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and Ben Bodne, who built this legendary landmark. Southern Jews, they owned the hotel from 1946 to 1987. As a kid, Colby and his siblings visited their grandparents every weekend. Colby took up permanent residence in the hotel at the age of 18 and made his way into the theater world as a librettist, composer and lyricist. His musical, Charlotte Sweet, an all-sung, all-rhymed original musical with libretto by Colby and music by

Gerald Jay Markoe, received three Drama Desk Award nominations and was critically lauded as "adorable, strange and delectable" by the *New York Times*.

The Algonquin Hotel is located at 59 W 44th Street, New York, New York 10036. Visit www.algonquinhotel.com or call 212-840-6800.

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at www.sandbox-world.com.

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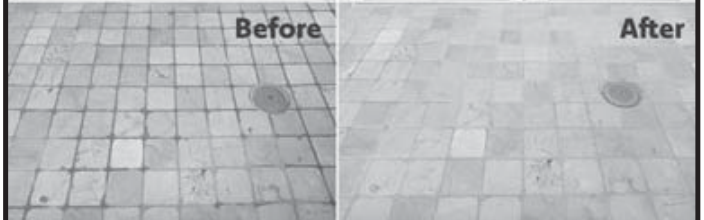
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