



photography by Jim Bazin © 2010

Managing Chef Andrew Hansen (left) and Chef/Owner of Cafe Miranda, Kerry Altiero

Cafe Miranda, which opened in 1993, set the standard for Rockland's benchmark of culinary excellence for year-to- come, and was one of the first open kitchens around. Miranda was also the first restaurant in the state to have a wood fired brick oven in the kitchen. Kerry Altiero won't tell you these facts right away, because his focus is more on his philosophical and emotional connection to his food and all that it represents.

Plus, he'd rather tell you what Elvis is doing taking up residence in his restaurant's bathroom, where all those different and kitschy salt and pepper shakers which add character to his dining tables come from, what's up with all the pink flamingoes, or how the magic of Cafe Miranda is that it operates on 'heart and soul.'

Rockland's Owl Benevolent and Fraternal Club was once a place where sailors and locals came to gamble, and tables were bolted down to the floor. Kerry Altiero purchased and completely transformed this rundown building, turning it into Cafe Miranda, named after the memory of his beloved pet dog. Miranda's bowl, collar, and ashes are

given a shrine in the restaurant. And the Owl Club's former honor roll now makes an interesting conversation piece hanging above the bar.

In fact, everywhere you turn in Cafe Miranda there are little shrines and tributes to the important connections in Kerry's life.

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