

2013 ACPT Cru (Cruciverbalist) Dinner

What: Make your reservations **now** for the **2013 ACPT Friday Night Cru Dinner**

When: Friday, March 8, 2013 from 6 PM to 8 PM

Where: the glass enclosed Lounge directly connected to the main bar in the lobby of the Brooklyn Marriott.

As has been the tradition for many years of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament going back to the early days in Stamford, the Friday night Cru Dinner will once again (unofficially) kick off this year's festivities in Brooklyn. For those who are unfamiliar with this annual event, it began and continues as an opportunity for crossword obsessives (solvers, constructors, bloggers, lurkers) to break bread prior to the tournament. It's a big tent and all are welcome but space is limited to about 55. Here are some pictures from previous years (Stamford and Brooklyn) thanks to Lloyd Mazer and Fay Eastwood. Some of the faces may be familiar to you.



2006



2006



2011



2011



2007



2009



2007



2005



2004



2012

The Archives Restaurant at the Brooklyn Marriott is open for breakfast and lunch but **does not serve dinner**. The only food being served in the hotel that night will be served at the Cru Dinner. The alternative is one of the restaurants west of the court house across Adams Street. Click the tournament site link below and then click “program” for information about the local neighborhood and its attractions, including restaurants.

crosswordtournament.com

The Menu

Served Buffet Style continuously from 6 PM to 8 PM

Bruschetta

Roma Tomato with Cilantro
Tuscan White Beans
Black Olive Tapenade

accompanied by Toasted Ficelle Points and Fancy Assorted Crackers

Candied Sliced Roast Turkey Breast

served with Mini Whole Grain Rolls
Homemade Spicy Dijon on the side

Penne Pasta with Grilled Zucchini and Seasonal Squash (Vegan)

sautéed in Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Poached Eggplant Garlic
Salt, Pepper, and Hot Pepper Flake Toppings served on the side
Cheese Toppings will be available and served on the side

Healthy Salad

consisting of Greens, Cucumbers, Peppers, Onions, Carrots, and Jicama
with a White Balsamic Vinaigrette

An Assortment of Miniature Bite-Sized Pastries

to include the Chef's Signature Raspberry Almond Bites

Seasonal Sliced Fresh Fruits and Berries

Regular Soda, Diet Soda, Regular Coffee, Decaf Coffee, and Tea

Adult Beverages may be purchased at the adjacent bar.

\$40.00 per person including tax and tip

Admittance to the Cru Dinner will be by reservation only as the room can accommodate about 55 people comfortably. Reservations will be closed at that point. As it was last year, there are no sit-down tables per se but there will be an assortment of cafe (tall) tables and small lounge tables as well as seating for about 35 on couches and chairs throughout the room. There is no table service but we will have a wait staff person attending to our buffet so that no matter when you arrive between 6 and 8, everything on the menu will be available. I'll ask everyone in attendance to throw a dollar or two in a jar as a tip for what I expect will once again be excellent service.

How Much: As it has been for the past several years, the cost will remain \$40 per person **including tax and tip** and will be charged to your room via a signature form I'll give you upon entering the Lounge area. Anyone attending the dinner but not staying in the hotel can pay in cash on Friday night. If you'd like, the Marriott will be happy to provide you with a receipt.

Reservations can be made simply by emailing me (alpernm@aol.com) the number and names of those who will be attending with CRU DINNER in the subject line. Also if you would, please include how you learned about the dinner. I will send you a confirmation email. As stated above, we are limited to a maximum of 55 people so please do not wait until the last minute.

FAQs

What is the "CRU"?

Essentially, anyone who ever contributed in any way to the old NY Times Crossword Puzzle Forum or the many successor blogs. Like I said, a big tent.

Do I have to register for the tournament to attend the Cru Dinner?

No. A number of previous tournament participants regularly show up just to have dinner with old friends.

This is my first tournament. I don't know anybody.

That's the best reason of all to come to the Cru Dinner. It's casual, convenient, civilized, and crossword-centric. By 8PM, you'll be a part of it all.

If I get held up in traffic and don't arrive until after 7, will I still eat?

Yes. Everything on the menu will be replenished regularly and available for the entire 2 hours.

Will I have time to get to the Friday evening warm-up games and entertainment program?

Those venues are just across the lobby. There will be plenty of time.

What if I have any other questions? Email me: alpernm@aol.com

Whether or not you plan to attend the Cru Dinner, please feel free to forward this to any (potentially) interested parties so that no one is left out of the loop.

I look forward to seeing you on the 8th. And good luck, if you're competing!.

Mike Alpern