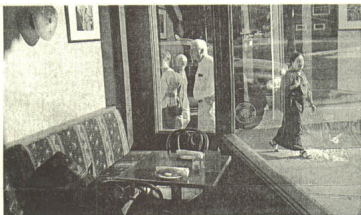


# Boston Sunday Globe

AUGUST 24, 2003

## A Berkshires hub that's a magnet for New Yorkers



The Castle Street Cafe led the way for other high-end restaurants when it opened in 1989.

If Stockbridge has Norman Rockwell, and Lenox has Tanglewood, Great Barrington has restaurants. With surprisingly varied shopping, it's also the hub of the state's southwest corner, a rolling landscape salted with antique shops, summer theater and music, and places to stay that would cost far more in the Berkshires' famous tourist towns.

By far the largest town in Southern Berkshire County, Great Barrington (population: 7,288) has always been a place to buy a wrench, catch a bus, and see a dentist or a movie. Recently, it's also become a place to shop for linen clothing and country furnishings, for antiques, artists materials, and vintage posters, to rent a kayak, or find a guide for fly fishing. The tiny visitor's center has opened a "Half Tix" window, selling same day, half-price tickets for musicals and plays at Barrington Stage Company, dance at Jacob's Pillow, and music in numerous other South Berkshire venues.

"In summer, Manhattan's entire Upper West Side is empty," says Michael Ballon, chef-owner of The Castle Street Cafe. "Everyone is here." As it turns out, that is not a bad thing. The Upper West Side, Ballon explains, is a neighborhood that eats out.

### Where to eat

#### Castle Street Cafe

10 Castle Street  
413-528-5244

Elegant take on local ingredients.  
Open for dinner nightly except  
Tuesdays, with jazz nightly for  
no cover. Dinner entrees \$7-\$21.