Wayside Restaurant proudly featured in:

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By Jane and Michael Stern

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WAYSIDE RESTAURANT

waysiderestaurant.com

1873 US Route 302

802-223-6611

Montpelier, VT

BLD | \$

Even if you are not on a mission to eat regional arcana, you can be sure of good food, priced right, in this cheerful town lunchroom. Meals start with glossy-topped dinner rolls, warm from the oven. How nice it is to tear off a piece of roll and dunk it into a bowl of Wayside beef barley soup—a hearty brew so thick with meat and pearly grain that a spoon literally stands up in it. What a feast the Wednesday chicken pie is, piled into a big crockery boat with dressing and a crusty biscuit, with a great heap of gravy-dripping mashed potatoes on the side. Pot roast comes piled high on a plate under a mantle of good gravy.

In addition to such classic North Country sweets as Grape-Nuts pudding, mince pie, and homemade ginger snaps, the dessert repertoire includes apple pie made with densely packed hand-cut apples in a fork-crimped crust and maple cream pie. Low and flat, the filling of the maple pie is too delicious for words. Its radiant band of amber cream is complex, powerful, and elegant the way only pure maple can be, and it resonates on your taste buds after a Wayside meal like a Yankee cordial.