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Hot seat, good eats

**Manhattan's best fireside dining
for those frigid winter nights**

by Dakota Smith

With Manhattan feeling as frigid as the Arctic tundra, the most coveted restaurant table these days isn't at an exclusive, four-star eatery, but at a cozy bistro with a warm, crackling fireplace.

From gas-burning varieties to traditional woodburning hearths—the latter usually providing more warmth (and romance)—we found the warmest seats in town.

But competition for a fireside table is fierce, so call ahead—some restaurants will go out of their way to reserve you a table in front of their flickering flames.

Upper West Side

In the back room at Bistro Ten 18 (1018 Amsterdam Ave.; 212-662-7600), the fireside tables are so popular right now that regulars simply ask for the tables by their numbers (28 and 30).

"Everyone sits in the back room near the fireplace," says Craig Skiptunis, one of the owners.

"Walking by the restaurant and looking in the front windows, you might think the restaurant was empty."

Besides a large stone, gasburning fireplace, Bistro Ten 18 offers its customers—mostly a mix of locals and Columbia professors—a comprehensive list of Spanish red wines, as well as warm winter fare like bison meatloaf and Hudson Valley duck breasts.



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Issue February 1, 2004, p.58-59*