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Celebrate Cinque de Mai au Francais

Wednesday May 4, 2011 5:10 PM By Erica Marcus



Photo credit: Newsday / Howard Schnapp

Cinco de Mayo is not Mexican Independence Day (which is celebrated on Sept. 16), but rather a commemoration of Mexico's victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. So while you would be entirely justified in partaking of a taco today (here are our picks for LI's best tacos), you could also make a case for enjoying a French meal—if only to retrospectively root for the loser. (Not

that France had any business trying to run Mexico. But I digress even further.)

Long Island's got far fewer French restaurants than Mexican; the proportion of French-born chefs to Mexican ones even smaller. Still we've got genuine Frenchmen in charge at [Mirabelle](#) in Stony Brook (Guy

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Reuge), [Stone Creek Inn](#) in East Quogue (Christian Mir), [Chez Noelle](#) in Port Washington (Noelle Simonin) and at [Le Soir](#) in Bayport (Michael Kaziewicz).

Looking for less of a culinary commitment? Stop by Great Neck's new takeout shop [Village Market](#), owned by Alsatian-born Mathieu Frey.

Guy Regue (left), Christian Mir and Robert Rizzuto (NYIT Culinary program) prepare the salad course at Jurgielewicz Duck Farm on Sunday, November 13, 2005 in Mastic.

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