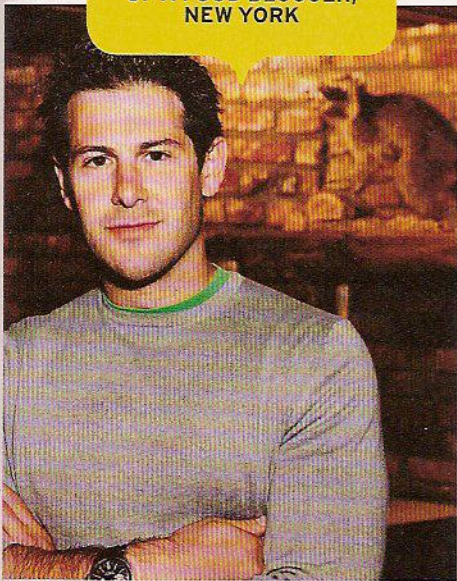


**A DAY IN THE LIFE
OF A FOOD BLOGGER,
NEW YORK**



➤ BEN LEVENTHAL (Eater.com)

Erstwhile VH1 producer and longtime urban foodie Leventhal blogs about New York's cliquy restaurant scene, posting reports of openings, closings, feuds, and partnerships on the two-year-old Eater. "We don't do reviews," he explains. "Eater is about picking heroes—and villains—and tracking their stories."

5:30 p.m. Leventhal is a pavement-pounder. After scouring New York's neighborhoods for hints of change, he'll hit up as many as five new restaurants and bars in an evening. Our first stop is Morandi, Keith McNally's newest bistro in the West Village. "When I find a chef or owner who's passionate, the energy of the place is intoxicating," Leventhal says.

6:15 p.m. We hop a cab to PDT (Please Don't Tell), an East Village speakeasy accessed from a faux telephone booth inside a hot dog shop. The cocktail menu was created by mixologist Jim Meehan (of Gramercy Tavern). Leventhal makes a point of keeping up with his moves.

7:45 p.m. Join nightlife impresario David Rabin in Chelsea for a tasting at Sueños, owned by chef Sue Torres. Leventhal introduced the two, and now Torres is slated to run Rabin's latest venture, Los Dados, opening at the end of July.

10 p.m. Back to the West Village, where Harold Dieterle, a winner on Bravo's *Top Chef*, has opened Perilla. "You get a real sense of tone just by observing the bar." We claim front-row seats.

12 a.m. Cap off at Resto, a Belgian bistro, for a crispy pig's head sandwich (available off-menu)—our third meal of the night. "I guess I'm hardwired to explore," Leventhal says.

Leventhal's favorite blog: VillageVoice.com/blogs/food. —SARA REISTAD-LONG



For a video of Leventhal on a tour of restaurants, go to travelandleisure.com.