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## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### Hummus the word at Nanoosh

BY IRENE SAX

Friday, May 16th 2008, 4:00 AM

I don't want a big meal before going to [Lincoln Center](#). I'll fall asleep, which is no way to treat "Aida" or "South Pacific," especially with tickets so expensive. That's why I was happy to discover I could eat simply, healthfully and very reasonably nearby.

Nanoosh is a bright modern cafe that's wildly busy at lunchtime, but in the evening you can be out in time to make the overture. It bills itself as a "Mediterranean hummus bar," and hummus is definitely the thing to have.

Hummus with spicy sun-dried tomato pesto (\$7.50) is a cool, silken puree dusted with cumin and cayenne and topped with a heap of chewy sun-dried tomatoes (\$7.50). Hummus beef is garnished with toasted pine nuts and crumbles of sautéed ground beef (\$11.95). All are meant to be shared and come with two fluffy white or whole-wheat pitas, the only things not made right there.

There's a thin tomato soup that tastes as though it was made with real tomatoes (\$5.50), and a weightless quinoa salad just kissed with olive oil and lemon juice (\$9.50). There are wraps, rolled up in sheets of thin lavash. But you can get a wrap anywhere. Have the hummus.

#### NANOOSH

2012 Broadway, at 69th St., (212) 362-7922

#### Must haves:

Tomato soup, \$5.50

Quinoa salad, \$9.50

Sun-dried tomato hummus, \$7.50

**Worth a trip:** Neighborhood



Sunshine for News

Bright and cheery, Nanoosh is a great option for quick, cheap food near Lincoln Center.

Where to find ready-made picnic dinners

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## Where to find ready-made picnic dinners

BY RACHEL WHARTON  
Sunday, July 20th 2008, 4:00 AM

Delicious desserts can be time-consuming, so why not leave the actual meal to somebody else? These five spots can deliver a summer dinner in picnic-ready form.

**FAIRWAY MARKET:** This supermarket's catering arm can supply your blanket, too. There's plenty to choose from - \$8 sandwiches, veggie trays at \$4 a person, tea sandwich trays that serve 10 for \$65, and, with a day's notice, the upper West Side location will deliver near Central Park. [www.fairwaymarket.com](http://www.fairwaymarket.com) for locations.

**PERA MEDITERRANEAN BRASSERIE:** Created in honor of the weekly Bryant park film series, Pera's kits come in real baskets (get your \$7 deposit back if you return it). They're \$21 per person, and include a meze sampler, pickled vegetables, grilled chicken or lamb (for \$4 extra) and pistachio baklava. Just call 30 minutes in advance for pickup from 303 Madison Ave., (212) 878-6301.

**MURRAY'S CHEESE:** Not only are Murray's pasta salads, dense cheesecake brownies and sandwiches (think roast beef, aged cheese and slaw) outstanding, but the boxy little woven baskets a charmer, too. You can feed two (\$30), four (\$75), six (\$120) or eight (\$160). Just order in advance and pick it up at the Bleecker St. shop (254 Bleecker St. near Sixth Ave.) or have it delivered. There's a complete menu at [www.murrayscheese.com](http://www.murrayscheese.com); call (212) 243-3289, extension 19 for orders.

**NANOOSH MEDITERRANEAN HUMMUS BAR:** Forget chips and dip, the modern picnic must-have is hummus, preferably the handmade stuff. Nanoosh delivers nine kinds, including the \$23.95 compartmentalized tray for four, which includes three dips and veggies and pita for dipping. If you're heading to a screening in Central Park, they'll meet you at the corner of 72nd or 65th sts. and Central Park West. 2012 Broadway, (212) 362-7922; [www.nanoosh.com](http://www.nanoosh.com).

**GET FRESH:** If you're headed into Brooklyn's beautiful Prospect Park, go with a



Lara Hala  
A fresh-packed picnic from Pera Mediterranean Brasserie comes in its own returnable basket.

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July 20, 2008  
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