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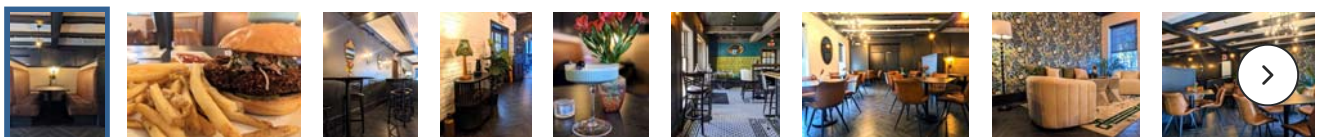
ENTERTAINMENT

New owners update interior, menu at Six Horses Tavern at Aurora Inn (photos)

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Six Horses Tavern, Aurora

By [Paris Wolfe, cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com)

AURORA, Ohio – Chefs Neva Justham-Bennett and Richard E Bennett, IV, took over [Six Horses Tavern](#) and Restaurant at the Aurora Inn on August 18. Two months later, the dining room has a new look and a new menu. The inn and tavern, 30 Shawnee Trail, Aurora, continue under the same ownership. But the restaurant business is owned by the Bennetts.

Rick’s experience includes culinary school and stints with One Red Door, Flipside, Sapphire Creek Winery, and a multi-million dollar restaurant group in Boston. Neva, who has a degree in fashion design/art history grew up in a food-focused Italian family. She was in business development and restaurant consulting while pursuing her passion as a chef. Over the past 8 years, she’s worked as a private chef and is a certified, plant-based chef. Her vegan experience is reflected on the menu.

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When guests arrive at the historic stagecoach house-turned-restaurant, they enter through a casual tavern. They can opt for a seat at the bar or high-top table and the limited tavern menu. Or they can move into the 60-seat adjacent dining room, choosing a booth or table.

In the last two months, the dining room décor has shifted away from a “guest cafeteria” vibe to a casually elegant dining room. To keep the restaurant open during the transition, renovations were done after hours. The timing was deliberate.

“We didn’t want to alienate our current clients,” says Neva. The partners hope to keep current customers and attract new customers with the refresh. Modifications include dark, “cracked pepper” painted walls, softer seating, large-print wallpaper on a statement wall, new lighting and fresh flowers on tables.

The chef-duo found old menus in storage. They consulted these as they worked on the new menu.

“We leaned into the history of it,” says Neva. For example, they offer an a la carte menu with a choice of sides, butters and sauces and a modernized chopped salad.

The tavern menu offers soup, small plates, burgers, and sandwiches. Small plates are bar food, like wings and hot honey pretzel bites as well as a grilled peach & prosciutto bruschetta. Vegans can select an impossible burger with Korean BBQ, arugula and red onion. Perhaps the most interesting handheld is the fried chicken schnitzel with honey aioli, pickle slices and housemade slaw.

The dining room menu is more refined. Starters include mussels with grilled fennel in a tomato wine-garlic broth and a grilled baguette. And, of course, cheese and meat boards are available. The pasta section offers a vegan roasted vegetable and tofu stuffed ravioli with cashew bechamel, sundried tomatoes and spinach.



Six Horses Tavern recently renovated the dining room and menu. The fried chicken Schnitzel sandwich is an addition. (Photo by Paris Wolfe)

Steaks, sides and sauces/butters are a la carte. Mix-and-match combinations could be an aged, pan-seared strip steak with black truffle hollandaise and lobster mashed potatoes. Or maybe a pink and green peppercorn cream sauce and a side of creamed spinach and leeks.

The menu will change seasonally.

The brunch menu is elevated to include a jumbo lump crab cake, oysters, lobster benedict, lobster roll and more. The Prix Fixe (\$45/person) includes a sparkling slight, donuts with espresso creme anglaise and a choice of entrees. Add the Bloody Mary Cart (\$19/two servings) which includes olives, blue cheese olives, pepperoncini, pickled green beans, celery, lemon, lime, hot sauce, bacon, rosemary and, of course, vodka.

The bar program offers classic and artisan cocktails as well as Ohio and international wines. The tavern is shining a spotlight on neighbor Salvage Winery -- which opened in early October at 9817 Painesville-Ravenna Road, Mantua – by offering glass pours of its wines.

Tickets are still available for the Costumes & Cocktails Halloween Party from 7 p.m. to midnights, Oct. 28. Tickets are \$45/person or \$65/couple. They include appetizers, two drink tickets and a costume contest with prizes.

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Paris Wolfe writes about food, dining and drinking for Cleveland.com. You can reach her with story ideas at pwolfe@cleveland.com. [Here's a directory of her latest posts](#). Follow her on Instagram [@pariswolfe](https://www.instagram.com/pariswolfe).

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