

RESTAURANTS

AROUND THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD—
WHERE TO GO NOW BY ANDREW KNOWLTON

Co-founder Paul Newman
and chef-owner Michel
Nischan are the star team
at Dressing Room.



HOT SEAT

Dressing Room: A Homegrown Restaurant WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

"Are you going to the show?" is the first thing you'll be asked when you arrive at Dressing Room, located in a rustic-chic farmhouse next door to the Westport Country Playhouse. The best answer might well be: "Which show?" For the many locals and not-so-locals who have been crowding the restaurant since it opened just over a year ago, there's plenty of theater going on in the dining room. Much of it stars co-founder Paul Newman. He established the place as a way to raise money for the playhouse and is often seen at one of the sleek wooden tables enjoying the restaurant's superlatively juicy burger.

Chef-owner Michel Nischan's hearty American cook-

ing is getting rave reviews, too. With a philosophy of using mainly locally produced or grown seasonal ingredients and concentrating on American heirloom recipes, Nischan has created a menu that represents the best of New England, like a fork-tender, richly sauced pot roast garnished with horseradish and a supremely comforting meatloaf smothered in caramelized onions. And don't skip dessert: Pastry chef Coreen Cardamone is turning out some of the best sweets anywhere, like the brilliant Naughty Angel—pan-fried angel food cake topped with ice cream. (27 Powers Court; 203-226-1114; dressingroomhomegrown.com) —Victoria von Biel

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