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Bourdain set to dish about Montana

Montanans can tune in Monday to the Travel Channel to see what cook and television personality Anthony Bourdain dishes up about the state.

Bourdain, host of "No Reservations," spent a week with his film crew in the Livingston area in May.

The show's home page contains a photo of Bourdain standing by a neon sign on the Murray Hotel in Livingston. The episode's description says the show contains "manly conversation about meats, old-time tough guys like Clint Eastwood and John Wayne, and right vs. wrong." Montana is described as "an outdoorsman's paradise."

The site includes a short video of Bourdain trail riding at the ranch of Remi and Susan Metcalf, east of Big Timber, and of him fly fishing. A slide show and behind-the-scenes photos portray Livingston's main drag and the mountains surrounding it. Bourdain is shown with author and poet Jim Harrison and artist Russell Chatham.

The video describes Bourdain riding into "a wild week in Montana" where the landscapes are like works of art. Bourdain's comment after a trail ride: "I've got saddle sores the size of baby fists."

Highlights include a meal of buffalo, elk and chicken galantine at the Second Street Bistro in Livingston, drinks at the Emigrant Tavern, fried walleye from The Fry House in front of the Yellowstone Gateway Mall and traditional pasties at Pinky's, also in Livingston.

Brian Menges is the chef and owner of the Second Street Bistro. He said Bourdain filmed in the Livingston area in May. At the bistro, Bourdain was served a six-course tasting menu cooked almost entirely with food produced within 50 miles of town.

Menges said Bourdain is no different on a daily basis than he is on the show, meaning he was generally laid-back and friendly but often sharp-tongued.

"He said it was awesome," Menges said of Bourdain's reaction to the meal.

"Of course, we'll have to wait and see what he says on the show, though. But it was just amazing for us. This being a chef-owned-and-operated restaurant, the fact that he chose to come here is just a huge feather in our cap."

Menges said the show is scheduled to air at 7 p.m. Monday and that the bistro will hold a free pig roast that night, followed by a viewing of the show and then music from a live band. The episode will also be shown Monday nationwide on The Travel Channel.

Bourdain, who has a reputation for saying what he thinks, lives in New York City and has worked as everything from a dishwasher and line cook to a chef during his 28-year restaurant career. A memoir of his experiences in New York's culinary underbelly turned into a best-seller, and he followed it up with the gonzo-travel diary, "A Cook's Tour."

His TV show, "No Reservations," is now in its fifth season. In the series, he explores culinary cultures around the world while at that same time diving into local traditions and customs.