

FEATURES

**Michael Bruno Launches New Platform Aimed at Saving Small Businesses in Upstate New York**

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Local Entrepreneur and founder of [1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com), Michael Bruno has created a new platform aimed at helping small business in Upstate NY make it through and service the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

[Tastemakers Guide](#) is a free platform allowing 300+ crucial small businesses in the food and dining, hospitality, art, and design fields to connect, share their current operating status and update their notes from the field in real-time.

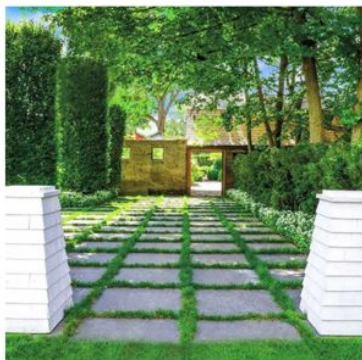
*"There are so many places to go to have an intimate experience in Upstate NY,"* says Bruno of the site, which launched earlier this week. *"We wanted to make it easy to find out who is open and what they have to offer – all in one place. The guide focuses on places to go in the art, design, hospitality and natural worlds. Most of the places within the guide were shared by some very cool Tastemakers who live in or frequent the Hudson Valley and Upstate region."*

Michael Bruno firmly believes in supporting small businesses and is passionate about the Upstate region – he thinks it's the closest thing America has to the European countryside with locally-owned inns, restaurants, farms, and shops scattered throughout the region. He also lives and works in the lower Hudson Valley (less than 1 hour from NYC) and employs a team of locals at his boutique hospitality property, [Valley Rock Inn and Market](#).

As the founder and CEO of [1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com) for 17 years, Michael found himself in charge of a large online community of small business owners during 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the 2008 financial crisis. The entrepreneurs that were on his site came through these difficult times stronger than ever because of their strength in numbers. He is applying those same principles in a grassroots effort to Tastemakers Guide and is fortunate enough to have the resources to cover the cost of running the platform and providing it to businesses for free after selling 1stdibs.

Michael has also enlisted the help of several lawyers to work pro-bono to break down the new Federal and NY State Government programs (grants and loans) that help small businesses, as well as to offer them guidance while they are applying for these potential lifelines.

Learn more about the genesis of Tastemakers Guide and Mr. Bruno himself by checking this [cool Q&A session](#) on the Tastemakers Guide website....and don't forget the explore the site while you are there!



Valley Rock Inn and Market; Sloatsburg, NY



Canoe Hill; Millbrook, NY



Blue Hill at Stone Barns; Tarrytown, NY



Milne Antiques and Design; Kingston, NY



Hort and Pot; Oak Hill, NY



Maison Bergogne; Narrowsburg, NY