

## CulinaryColorado

Food-oriented blog about restaurants and purveyors in Colorado or anyplace else food and travel writer Claire Walter happens to be -- plus occasional menus, recipes and wine information.

Monday, May 07, 2007

### Big-Name Chefs, New Eateries in Minneapolis



appreciates them.

I haven't been to the Twin Cities since Noah got off the Ark, but I've been reading a lot lately about the thriving restaurant scene, especially on the Minneapolis side of the river. In fact, I've been reading so much about it that I thought I'd share it here, but remember that this posting is informational, not personal. What I like about all this news is that another mid-country metro area has really good restaurants and a populace that

Wolfgang Puck's [20.21](#), recently opened in the [Walker Art Center](#), is his first full-service establishment in Minnesota. He brings his sprightly style and his signature Asian-influenced California menu to the great north country. He's not the first star chef to do so. Less than a year ago, celebrity chef chef [Jean-Georges Vongerichten](#) (left) opened the Chambers Kitchen in the chic, sleek and sophisticated [Chambers Hotel](#). The restaurant offers art on the walls and art from the kitchen. Foodies can reserve the chef's table, though J-G himself is unlikely to be presiding

While not graced with such marquee names, but popular nonetheless are Brenda Langton's [Spoonriver](#) and [Cue](#) in the [Guthrie Theater](#), both in the booming Riverfront District.

[La Belle Vie](#), Minnesota's most highly rated restaurant, is getting a run for its culinary money with these new big names but so far is reportedly holding its own. Also, quaint [112 Eatery](#) has been in *Food & Wine* magazine as one of the "hot ten," while [Azia](#) and [Mission American Kitchen](#) have been cited by *Bon Appetit* as casual chic spots. *Cooking Light* noted the [Dakota Jazz Club](#) for its heartland cuisine.

The newest kid in town is Chef Todd Stein of Chicago's heralded [MK - The Restaurant](#). He heads up [B•A•N•K](#), in the new [Westin Minneapolis](#) built in and

around the historic [Farmers & Mechanics Bank](#) building in downtown Minneapolis. Features are locally-cultivated, seasonal ingredients (tricky indeed in Minnesota), an extensive wine display (no trick at all; all it takes is money) and do-it-yourself martini-ing. The bartender invites guests to "enjoy the personal experience of shaking their own martinis" (a gimmick that I predict will either go over big-time or not at all).

Posted by ClaireWalter at 9:04 AM

Labels: [Chef](#), [Restaurant](#)

0 comments:

## Welcome to Culinary Colorado



Claire at the Boulder County Farmers Market

### About Me

Claire Walter

I am a Colorado-based, award-winning travel, food and sports writer who was just bitten by the blogging bug late in 2006. Fueled by an interest in the constantly changing culinary scene from my research while writing Culinary Colorado, a food-oriented guidebook to my state and wanting to keep writing about restaurants and cooking, I launched a food and restaurant blog called

culinary-colorado. Soon thereafter, while attending a convention in Santiago, Chile, I decided that I also wanted a similar immediate way to write about my travels and my observations and opinions about the travel industry, and so travel-babel was born. Shortly after returning from Chile, I signed a contract to write a book about Nordic Walking, and so I also started a third blog to plunge into the scene. Links to these blogs appear below. Juggling them all and also meeting my deadlines is a happy challenge. I invite you to visit them all, post a comment -- anonymously if you wish -- and come back often.

### Visit My Website and Two Other Blogs

My [website](#) features previews of all the books I have written, dozens of published articles in their entirety, my "Dining Diary" of restaurant meals I have enjoyed, a calendar of personal appearances and more.

I have two other blogs, one [travel](#) (my own travels, travel news, travel tips and travel observations) and one about [Nordic Walking](#), an up-and-coming outdoor fitness activity.

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