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## Nibbles, October 20

By John Lehdorff, Rocky Mountain News  
October 20, 2006

### Eatery update

*Esquire's* annual *Best New Restaurants* issue names **Lachlan Mackinnon-Patterson of Frasca** one of four Chefs to Watch: "Wholly committed to exalting the food of Italy's Friuli region, Mackinnon-Patterson does it with such personal style that he has made Boulder worth a drive up from Denver," writes critic John Mariani. . . . *Zagat Survey* has released its debut *Dare to Dine Guide* of "the boldest" American restaurants including local faves **Cafe Brazil, India's, The Kitchen, New Saigon, Rioja, Sushi Den, Sushi Zanmai, Tamayo** and **Zengo**. Needless to say, if they had asked us we would have added quite a few more eateries to the list. . . . Steve Shelman, former owner of **Ventura Grill** and **Ocotillo**, has opened **Siena**, an Italian-American tavern, at 333-D Perry St. in Castle Rock. . . . Coming soon: **North Star**, 3200 Tejon St., Denver; **Cook's Fresh Market**, 1600 Glenarm St.; and **La Sandia Mexican Kitchen & Tequila Bar**, 8340 E. 49th Ave. in the Northfield Stapleton development from **Richard Sandoval of Tamayo and Zengo**.

### Brew news

You don't have to go very far to drink some of the best beers in America. Colorado gold medal winners at the recent Great American Beer Festival competition include **Blue Moon Honeymoon** (Blue Moon); **Laughing Lab Scottish Ale** (Bristol); **Golden Armor** (C.B. & Potts); **Old Ruffian Barley Wine** (Great Divide); **Le Fleur Misseur** and **La Folie** (New Belgium); **5 Barrel Pale Ale** (Odell); **Molly Titanic** (Rock Bottom Brewery); **Schtolen Pils** (SandLot Brewery); and **Steam Engine Lager** (Steamworks). For a complete list of winners, visit [www.beertown.org](http://www.beertown.org).

### On the menu

**Mel's Restaurant and Bar**, 235 Fillmore St., Denver, crispy skin duck breast with confit crepes, spaghetti squash, spinach and chestnut sauce (\$27); **Uoki Restaurant**, 701 E. Sixth Ave., Denver, bi-bim-bob (\$9.95); at **John Holly's Asian Bistro**, 2422 S. Downing St., Denver, half crispy duck with Thai chile sauce (\$13.95); and at **Laudisio**, Twenty Ninth Street, Boulder, risotto with braised beef cheek, mirepoix, peas and truffle marsala reduction (\$16).

### Culinary calendar

The menu for **Aix's** fall wine dinner Wednesday includes butter-poached salmon *en croûte* and pumpkin mousse with dried Bing cherries. Cost: \$65. Information: 303-831-1296. . . . Get your tickets now for the grand tasting Nov. 4 at the **Denver International Wine Festival** that includes sampling 360 wines. Cost: \$65 advance if you buy them *today*. Reservations: 866-468-7621; [www.denverwinefest.com](http://www.denverwinefest.com). . . . Forty of Boulder's best restaurants will dish three-course, \$26 *prix fixe* dinners Nov. 11-18 during the debut **First Bite Boulder**. Participating eateries include **Aji, Black Cat, Full Moon Grille, Jax, Jill's, Mateo, Seven Eurobar, Q's** and the **Greenbriar Inn**. Details: [www.firstbiteboulder.com](http://www.firstbiteboulder.com).

### Tasty Web site

Take a walk down the collective gustatory memory lane at [www.lileks.com/institute/gallery/index.html](http://www.lileks.com/institute/gallery/index.html). **The Gallery of Regrettable Food** features recipes with period photographs and illustrations from food pamphlets of the 1940s through '60s for dishes such as Ham Basted with 7-Up, Coffee Jell-O and Beanee-Weenees Western Style.

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