

THE DENVER POST

Domingo — a tenor with taste

Does opera superstar **Plácido Domingo** sing for his supper? Not if he's dining at one of chef **Richard Sandoval's** spots. Domingo, 67, is a 50-50 business partner with Sandoval in La Sandia, which has a third location opening Thursday at The Vistas at Park Meadows, the outdoor retail and restaurant area that went into the shuttered Lord & Taylor space.

Domingo, one of the famed three tenors, will attend the invite-only opening party on Oct. 29. The top tenor — he's had more on-stage roles than any other tenor, according to his biography — is a partner in all three La Sandias as well as Pampano, a Mexican coastal restaurant in New York City.

"We go back to Mexico, when I was living in Mexico with my father . . . 20 years back," Sandoval said of Domingo. "He has a vacation home in Acapulco. His family would frequent my father's restaurants."

Sandoval left his hometown of Mexico City to try to take a restaurant bite out of the Big Apple by opening Savaan, a French eatery, followed by Savaan Est. In 1997, he returned to his Mexican roots and opened Maya in NYC, where Domingo was a frequent guest.

"He had a restaurant in New York City that wasn't doing too

well and he asked my advice," Sandoval said. Together they opened Pampano, a Mexican



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seafood restaurant named one of the best new restaurants by *Esquire* magazine, followed by Zengo in Washington, D.C.

After finding success in Denver with Tamayo on Larimer Square and Zengo in the Riverfront neighborhood, Sandoval, 40, opened the first La Sandia two years ago in the Northfield at Stapleton development, followed by one in D.C. and the third at Park Meadows.

Will Domingo honor us with a tune during the Jopening party? "I don't think so, but maybe we can talk him into it," Sandoval said. "For the icon that he is, he's a very humble and nice man."

PHOTO'S FAME: **Angelina Jolie** made international headlines over the weekend when she told

The New York Times that she and **Brad Pitt** fell in love during the making of *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* in 2005. That *Times* piece ran Sunday, accompanied by a sultry photo of the actress taken by **Todd Heisler**, the shooter who was hired at the *NYT* after winning the Pulitzer Prize at the *Rocky* for "Final Salute." It was a good day for Heisler. Besides the Angelina shots, he also did the portraits of **Jeremy Piven** of the Showtime series *Entourage* that ran in the same section.

BOOK NOOK: **Meghan McCain**, daughter of Republican presidential candidate **John McCain**, will make a book-signing stop (without a presentation) at 4 p.m. Thursday at the Tattered Cover Highlands Ranch. Meghan, a journalist, blogger and fledgling fashion designer, turns 24 on Thursday. The children's book, *My Dad, John McCain*, is an illustrated biography.

EAVESDROPPING on a woman to a man on the Green Valley Ranch Golf Course: "Are you a hacker?" "No, I don't know that much about computers."

Penny Parker's column appears Tuesday through Saturday. Call her at 303-954-5224 or e-mail parkerp@RockyMountainNews.com.