

STAR RATING KEY

Exceptional
★★★★★
Excellent
★★★★
Good
★★★
Fair
★★
★



ONLINE MAITRE D'
Restaurant Reviews

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3-course dinner
with tax and tip
\$ = under \$20
\$\$ = \$21 to \$30
\$\$\$ = \$31 to \$40
\$\$\$\$ = \$41 to \$50
\$\$\$\$\$ = above \$51

Pat Pourri

*April 21, 2006***BY PAT BRUNO**

Inside tip for Mother's Day. Snag a reservation at Courtright's (8989 S. Archer, Willow Springs, 708-839-8000), and Mom will think she raised a genius who knows good food. Choose three courses (\$55) or four courses (\$65). What I really like is that there is a three-course option for children priced at \$29. It goes from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mother's Day (May 14).

- I was looking over the menu at the very new Birch River Grill (75 W. Algonquin, Arlington Heights, 847-427-4242). Talk about an eclectic menu. Spaghetti and "colossal meatballs" mix it up with meat loaf, grilled pizza, banana cream pie and -- wait, don't order yet -- broasted chicken. It seems like broasted chicken, the fowl that made Wisconsin famous, is making a comeback. It has been popping up at new restaurants lately. Tony Rocco's River North, which was reviewed here last week, also features broasted chicken. It takes a broaster (the chicken is cooked under pressure in a specially sealed chamber) to make it happen and, yes, the machine for doing that originated in Wisconsin.

- There is still time to get in on the "Springtime Greek Wine Dinner" at Opa Estiatorio (950 Lakeview, Vernon Hills, 847-968-4300). The way I read it, this going to be some kind of dinner, one that is made extra special by a wide range of wines to complement each course. The price is \$69.95 per person. It all starts at 6 p.m. on May 8.

- Congrats to Michael Carlson of Schwa restaurant (1466 N. Ashland, 773-252-1466) for being named one of Food and Wine magazine's "Best New Chefs of the Year." Check it out in F&W's annual chef's issue, which hits newsstands on June 15.

- The Name Game. The restaurant formerly known as Bin 36 (Lincolnshire) now goes by the name of The Great Lakes Fish House.

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