

BON APPÉTIT

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**BEST
OF THE
YEAR**

FOOD
PARTIES
TRAVEL
WINE
RESTAURANTS
HOME



DISH OF THE YEAR

BRAISED SHORT RIBS WITH CRÈME FRAÎCHE MASHED POTATOES

The Restaurant Reporter

Around the country—where to go now

BY TANYA WENMAN STEEL

The A List

CHEF'S CHOICE

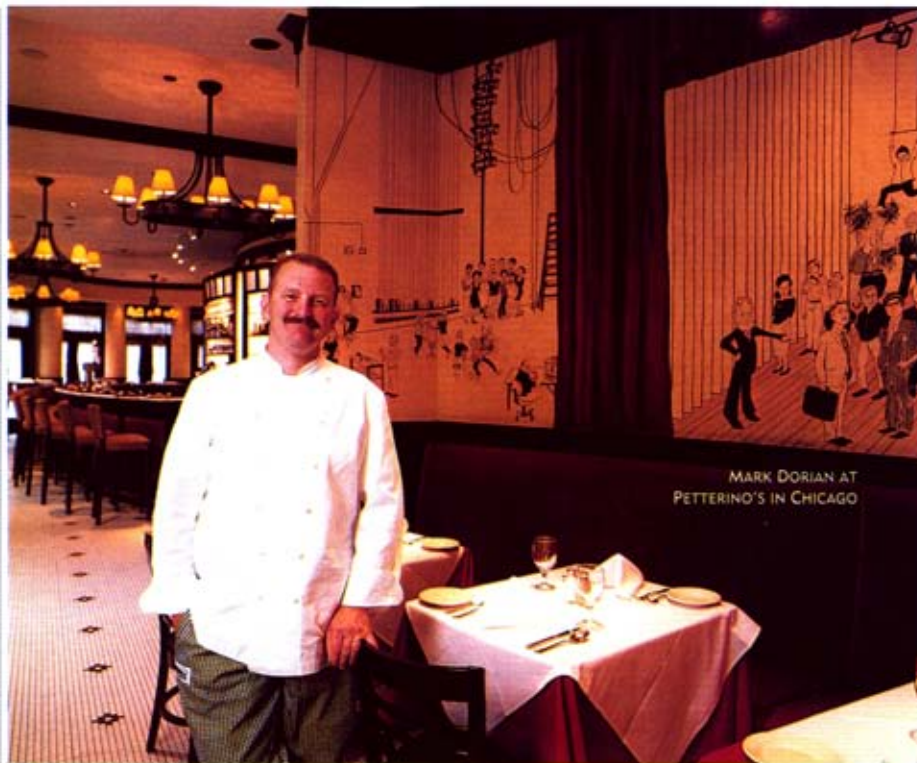
The multi-course tasting menu is a growing trend among many of America's top-notch restaurants, including these.

CHICAGO: At TRU, save room for pastry chef Gale Gand's decadent five-course dessert extravaganza.

DALLAS: Big, bold Texas flavors meet Asian accents at ABACUS. The nine-course tasting menu is available on Mondays and Tuesdays and at the Chef's Table on weekends.

LAS VEGAS: Skip the overcrowded Strip and head instead to a local favorite, ROSEMARY'S RESTAURANT, for a tasting menu that includes the house specialty, roasted rack of lamb with black-olive creamed potatoes.

PHILADELPHIA: The five- and seven-course spreads at intimate VETRI change nightly; cross your fingers they're serving the chestnut fettuccine with wild boar ragù.



MARK DORIAN AT
PETTERINO'S IN CHICAGO

The Buzz

In this roundup of restaurant openings in 2001, critics reveal the best new places in their cities—and in some cases, the most overrated and most anticipated, too.

| CHICAGO |

From Phil Vettel, noted restaurant critic of the *Chicago Tribune* newspaper.

BEST AMERICAN: Serving up the classic American steak-house fare of chef Mark Dorian, **PETTERINO'S** is a clubby hangout partly inspired by New York's Sardi's (note the caricatures on the wall). Another favorite is **SPRING**, where Shawn McClain, who used

to cook at the four-star Trio, serves American food with Asian accents in a sleek minimalist space.

BEST ETHNIC: **OTRO MAS**, a lively pan-Latin restaurant in Lake View, is a sister to the Mas in Wicker Park—and this newcomer is proving even more popular than the original.

MOST SPLURGEWORTHY: **AVENUES**, the marble dining room in the new Peninsula Chicago hotel, showcases Gerhard Doll's version of Mediterranean- and Asian-style seafood.

BEST VALUE: Famous for its pancakes and scrapple, the decade-old **INA'S** has opened a stylish West Loop location. With items like a ▶

AVENUES