



### LOOKING AHEAD

Chicago Sun-Times, Aug 31, 2005 by [Denise I. O'Neal](#)

Can it be that time already? Fall is right around the corner and Phil Stefani's 437 Rush has seasoned its menu with new dishes to fit the cooler days ahead.

Among Executive Chef Federico Comacchio's culinary creations is Milanesine di Vitello, three veal medallions lightly breaded and served with baby arugula and cherry tomatoes; and Australian lamb chop, wrapped in speck prosciutto with white asparagus and caramel- ized pearl onions in a Merlot and elderberry reduction.

Another debut item is the grigliata di Pesce, a medley of swordfish, Australian lobster, scallops and shrimp teamed with grilled vegetables, infused parsley oil and bottarga (roe of tuna).

Phil Stefani's 437 Rush is at the corner of Rush and Hubbard. Call (312) 222-0101.

#### SHARING THE SPOTLIGHT

Chicago area chefs put their ladle to the test during the Taste of the Nation event from 7 to 10 tonight at Galleria Marchetti.

Share Our Strength, an organization committed to stamping out hunger, will be the recipient of proceeds from the dinner.

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### Need recipes?

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The event is a national effort with more than 60 restaurants and 6,000 chefs participating.

Local restaurants taking part in the event include: Menagerie, Moto, Osteria Via Stato, Scylla, Thyme and Vie.

VIP tickets that include a special reception from 6 to 7 are \$125. Tickets at the door are \$60.

Galleria Marchetti is at 825 W. Erie. Call (877) 268-2783.

#### SULTRY DINNER SPECIAL

Petterino's serves up more than food this week when sultry singer Colleen McHugh fills the air with American popular songbook tunes.

The cabaret artist will perform sets at 6 and 8 tonight and Thursday.

McHugh's performances Thursday are in conjunction with the Chicago Jazz Festival, which takes place this weekend in Millennium Park.

Petterino's is at 150 N. Dearborn. Call (312) 422-0150.

#### MORTON'S RAISES THE STEAKS

Morton's, the Steakhouse has two dinner specials available through Sept. 30.

First up is a steak and lobster combo, a Caesar or Morton salad, one single-cut filet mignon with bearnaise sauce and a 7- to 8- ounce Australian lobster tail with drawn butter and steamed asparagus.

The second selection is a Caesar or Morton salad, two 7- to 8- ounce Australian lobster tails with drawn butter and steamed asparagus. Both dinners are \$69.

The specials are being offered at all Morton's restaurants. Visit [www.mortons.com](http://www.mortons.com) for locations.

#### HEALTHY CHOICES

Mario Garcia, sous chef of the Hilton Chicago, will present a demonstration from the hotel's new healthy eating program at 11 a.m. Monday on a food segment for WLS-Channel 7 news.

The menu was designed to enable health-conscious guests to feel more at ease with their dining choices while on the road.

One of the premier items from the Hilton Eat Right menu is the Adler plank salmon.

The menu is now available at the hotel, which is at 720 S. Michigan. Call (312) 922-4400.

#### TRU LOVE

Tru puts the spotlight on the ripe and ready varieties of the tomato during September.

Bento boxes with selections such as tri-color tomato and goat cheese terrine; marinated baby tomato salad and 100-year-old balsamic, and purple Cherokee tomato sorbet, garlic foam and sliced green zebra stripes.

Other dishes include crispy skinned Tai snapper, heirloom tomato-mushroom ragout and white beauty tomato broth, and roasted lamb chop stuffed with giant golden sunray tomato, striped Roman tomato puree and basil puree.

Tru is at 676 N. St. Clair. Call (312) 202-0001.

#### KIDS COOK UP A STORM

Spatulatta.com is a new Web site featuring kids cooking lessons. Nine year-old Isabella and her 7-year-old sister, Olivia, are the featured guests. The pint-size chefs share recipes, under the supervision of their mother.

Site visitors can view the video lessons, look up archived recipes and observe mini step-by-step programs featuring other children and their parents along with those of guest chefs.

A virtual field trip to That Little Mexican Cafe in Evanston is among the material for viewing. Chef Jorge guides Isabella and Olivia through recipes that include veggie tacos and Mexican hot chocolate.

The site was created by local filmmaker Gaylon Emerzian. The idea came about from Emerzian's observation that parents and children more often than not split hairs over meals.

It is aimed at ages 6 to 12. Visit [www.spatulatta.com](http://www.spatulatta.com).

#### CONTEST TIME

Once the younger set learns to cook at Spatulatta.com, it's time for a contest.

Just Tomatoes Co. wants kid-created snack and breakfast recipes for its Kids in the Kitchen Recipe Contest.

But here's the catch. Just Tomatoes is promoting the use of natural sweeteners. Judges are looking for recipes that include alternatives such as honey, turbinado, maple crystals or date sugar.

There are three age categories: 5-8, 9-12 and 13-17. Nine prizes will be given, three in each age category. Grand prize is \$100 and a shipment of six Just Tomatoes natural dried produce products.

For details, visit [www.justtomatoes.com](http://www.justtomatoes.com).

Frango's sweet success

The stock market had crashed. Businessmen were going bust. It was 1929 and new products weren't bouncing off the assembly lines at a breakneck pace.

Perhaps that's what motivated Frederick and Nelson to sell its product to Marshall Field's. The Frango name and chocolate mint recipe were originally an ice cream flavor developed by that company. Marshall Field's purchased the name and recipe and turned it into the classic chocolate confection.

Since its inception the candy brand has expanded to include numerous flavors and brand extensions such as coffee, baking chips and dessert toppings.

Frango celebrates its 75th anniversary with a host of special events, including a commemorative box inspired by the original 1929 packaging. The 2-pound box is available beginning Thursday.

Marshall Field's will have in-house celebrations Sept. 4 to 10.

Frangoites, how well do you know your Frango mints?

Q. From how many varieties of chocolate are Frango mints made?

A. Three

Q. How many pounds of Frango mints are produced yearly?

A. 1 million

Q. When were Frango mints made available online? How long was it before they were being ordered from all 50 states?

A. In 2000; within two months

Q. In 2003 Frango designed the largest box of chocolates as recorded by Guinness World Records. How much did it weigh?

A. 2,002 pounds.

Visit [www.fields.com](http://www.fields.com). Call (800) 537-2646 for events.

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