

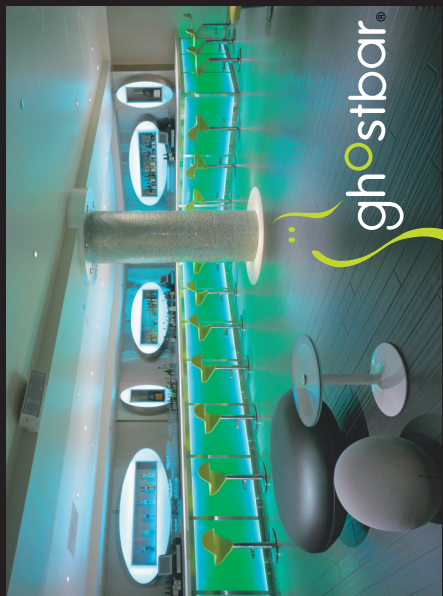
# TURNING HEADS

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## GOURMET GOSSIP with Sarah Levy

To bring in the New Year, I asked some of my favorite Chicago chefs a handful of pressing questions. Here's what they had to say... (Editor's Note: For fun, we had Sarah answer her own questions, too!)

### Missy Robbins, Executive Chef, Spiaggia

What's your New Year's resolution? To stick with my amazing fitness boot camp program I started in September. What do you think will be the hot new restaurant of 2008? I am really looking forward to Paul Kahan's new place slated to open this year. What are three things you appreciate most when eating out? 1. Ethnically-derived food. 2. Relaxed environment. 3. A really nice bathroom. What's the most romantic dinner spot? A booth at Spiaggia. One thing you can't travel without? Snacks for the plane, especially on long trips. Favorite place to hang out? Caffe De Luca in the morning. Favorite ingredient? Calabro Ricotta cheese is the best ever – it comes from East Haven, Connecticut. Best way for you to relax? Reading magazines like Vanity Fair on my couch with a glass of sparkling wine. Pet peeve...Liars. Something that's bothering you in the world...People not taking the time to change a few things in their lives to help make the environment better.



Spiaggia

### Amanda Downing, Executive Sous Chef, Rokit Bar and Grill

What's your New Year's resolution? To work on my New Year's resolution. What do you think will be the hot new restaurant of 2008? The new Asian concept from Rokit Ranch Group to open in mid-2008. What are three things you appreciate most when eating out? 1. Service. 2. Good food. 3. Value for what you're getting. What's the most romantic dinner spot? North Pond. It has a great view overlooking Lincoln Park. One thing you can't travel without? A notebook. I use it to write down ideas when going to a new restaurant. Favorite place to hang out? Clark Street Ale House. They have great beer. Favorite ingredient? Garlic, because you can use it on so many different things. Best way for you to relax? Listening to music and a good glass of pinot noir. Pet peeve...As a chef, tardiness with my staff. Something that's bothering you in the world... Visa Check commercials, because they are trying to make the world so plastic and less personal.

### Dominique Tougne, Executive Chef, Bistro 110

What's your New Year's resolution? To lose weight, but I never stick to it. Most of the time I gain weight! What do you think will be the hot new restaurant of 2008? I think restaurants are going to go on the green side. I think it will definitely attract a lot of attention. What are three things you appreciate most when eating out? 1. Quietness. 2. Good execution of product. 3. Efficient



The Everest Room

service that is discreet. What's the most romantic dinner spot? The Everest Room. One thing you can't travel without? My Swiss knife. I use it for everything. Favorite place to hang out? La Sardine. Favorite ingredient? Seasoning salt, because it can change the entire outcome of a recipe. Best way for you to relax? Riding my motorcycle, because I can't think about anything else and I just focus on the road. Pet peeve...Hypocrites and people who lie. Something that's bothering you in the world... Kids who are hungry and don't have access to things my kids have access to, such as basic necessities like food.