

AROUND TOWN

GOURMETS GATHER AT SOUTH BEACH

Over 12,000 hardy souls braved the sun, sand and surf in Miami last month to graze at the South Beach Wine & Food Fest. Sponsored by Southern Wines & Spirits to benefit the School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at F.I.U., the event hosted gastronomic glitterati galore. Top toques like Emeril Lagasse, Mario Batali, Ming Tsai, Nobu Matsuhisa and Rachael Ray strutted their stuff at culinary seminars packed with food junkies. Nearby, in two tents the size of circus big tops, vendors offered tastings of everything from corn chips to caviar. Beverage buffs fared well, too, with no less than 200 wine and spirits producers encouraging aficionados to sip samples of their wares.

More than twenty local upmarket eateries invited celebrity chefs like Daniel Boulud (Daniel, New York), Todd English (Olives, Boston) and Tyler Florence Food 911) to cook up a storm as guests in their kitchens. At Norman's in Coral Gables, for instance, diners were gorged with seared Australian fillet of veal with wasabi and sea urchin butter, buttermilk poussin breast in a garnish of black truffles with lobster and wagyu sirloin with braised beef short ribs orchestrated by visiting chefs Charlie Trotter, Tetsuya Wakuda and owner Norman Van Aken. The price for this repast, including vintage wines, was a mere \$400.

Interviewed on South Beach for *Taste* readers, Nigella Lawson, eponymous anchor of Style Network's "Nigella Bites" commented, "I think it's absolutely fabulous having just flown in from the snow in New York. I'm just loving having so much good food and wine!"

By Anthony Manifold

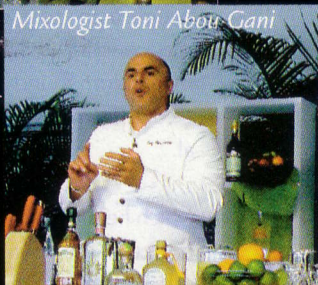
Ciao America host Mario Batali



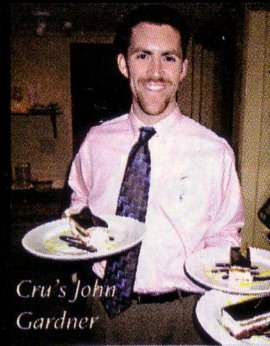
The Lemonello ladies



Chef Ming Tsai



Mixologist Toni Abou Gani



Cru's John Gardner



Another fabulous evening with terrific starters at the new DJ's, entree at Chef Caldwell's and dessert at Cru Bistro & Wine Bar

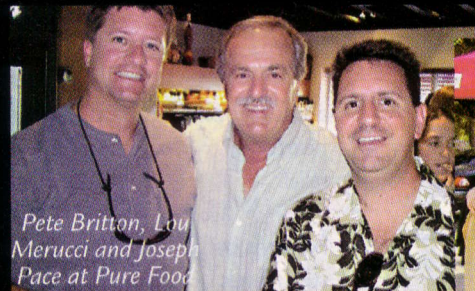


DJ's owners Donato Sassano, Donna and Randy Friend



Great food at DJ's

PURE FOOD GOURMET MARKET OPENING



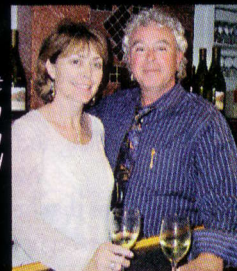
Pete Britton, Lou Merucci and Joseph Pace at Pure Food



Pure Food Gourmet Market owners Donna Eason, David Shiplett, Robyn and David Reynolds

Goodbye Island's End

Saying goodbye isn't always easy. Sean Timmins and Sean Murphy of Island's End



FLORIDA WINEFEST



Cru and Pastry Art owner John Anderson, Bacco's Ristorante's Pietro Moschini and Tricana Imports Pamela Dattilo and Michael Moore



Ark Cuisine's Julie Pepi and Chris Hershman

Taste's and ABC Fine Wines' wine sommelier Jean L'Hereault with Covey Run's winemaker Kerry Norton

