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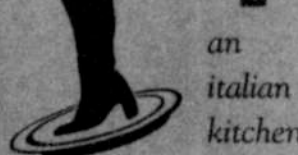
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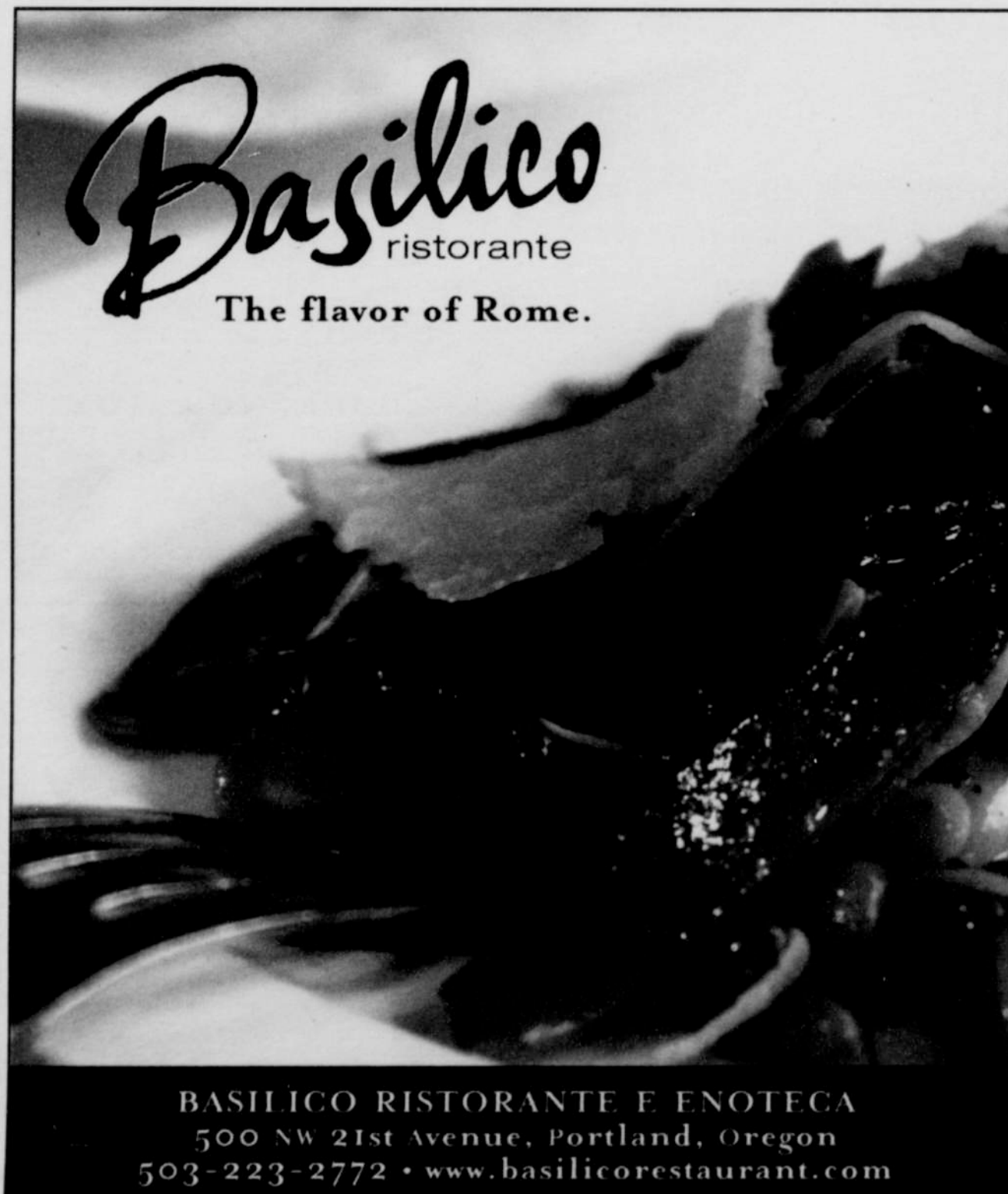
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BY JENNY NGUYEN

Out on the street

When I have to sleep with the window open, it's officially summertime. When I have to eat inside on an 80-degree day, it's officially hell. The mood is ripe for alfresco. Whether you're feeling like a rambunctious restaurant rambler or a timid tea-tipper, there's a seat saved for you out there. Below are three breathe-easy eateries to fill the gap till you find a sidewalk space to call your own.

Epicure • 407 N.W. Flanders St.

Weekend brunch here is fantabulous. Wear some sunscreen, leash up your pup (half the tables sported a K-9) and head to this tiny but popular Pearl gem for the French Farmhouse scramble with übersavory Brie, spinach and tomatoes. Or for a mighty mouth, give the Epicure Eggs Benedict a whirl—with tomatoes, spinach and avocado, it's heaven in hollandaise. There's usually a tempting daily special or two, so good luck deciding—just know that you're more than likely to love any and every thing, especially those scrumptiously herbaceous potato pancakes.

Ciao Vito • 2203 N.E. Alberta St.

Notably swanky inside with its communal seating, dungeon-style luminescence and singular flamboyant chandelier, don't be fooled into thinking of CV as just a foodie palace for pinky-uppers. Outdoor tables line the sidewalk immersed in all the diversity Alberta has to offer. Alt-cycles and bass-thumping hooties somehow meld perfectly with the warm summer breeze, window shoppers and authentic eats. The menu exudes regional rustic Italian cuisine. The Antipasti Della Casa is a must-have. Various house-pickled, marinated and roasted vegetables tease the palate as spicy soppressata and prosciutto paired with a delicate mix of Mediterranean olives balance the plate. Testament to the warm southern Italian seaside is seared ahi Siciliana served rare, ripe with currants and rapini. Meanwhile, the sugo of pork with porcini and crispy polenta is a shout-out to northern Italy's cooler climates. Ciao Vito is the closest to Italy my stomach's been in years, and for that, grazie!

Salvador Molly's •

1523 S.W. Sunset Blvd.

If you haven't been, go. No one's foolin' ya, matey, Salvador Molly's is like Pirates of the Caribbean for yer gut. Coconut jasmine rice, cornmeal-encrusted oysters and Cajun pan-seared catfish ensure the staff is no one-eyed Willie. Tamales, tacos, mojitos...you've heard it all before. But deep-fried jerk chicken tamales, popcorn crawfish tacos and raspberry mojitos...that's buried treasure! Add to that a patio with garage doors and live Cuban music on Wednesday nights...now we're talking. OK, maybe not so much talking, as you'll be busy pillaging your platter and looting your booze. Arrgh!

JENNY NGUYEN wants to know where you whine and dine. She can be breached at jenny0080@hotmail.com.