

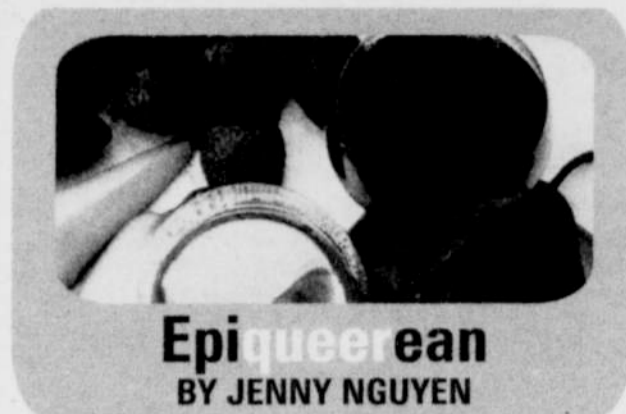
Touchstone Coffee & Tea House

445 NE 70th (NE 70th & Glisan)
503-262-7613
www.touchstonecoffeehouse.com

AQUARIVA
ITALIAN KITCHEN + WINE BAR
LUNCH DINNER HAPPY HOUR SUNDAY BRUNCH
0470 SW HAMILTON COURT WWW.AQUARIVAPORTLAND.COM

JOHN street cafe

8338 N. Lombard
503-247-1066



Feast of the East

Many folks believe the Willamette has divided our Rose City into two competing halves. On the east side you have the quaint, coffee-stumping, eco-friendly activists with torn jeans; on the west you have the blingy, shiny, stylish, Pearl-esque metropolitan folk. This is part one of a series on some notable culinary developments on each side of the river.

Belly

3500 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,
503-249-9764

Briefly the home of Terroir, this new establishment brings some much-sought-after glamour to MLK. The menu is an immediately sumptuous read: The smoked pork rilette, homemade pappardelle and salt-cured foie gras are all standout flavor busters. The classics-inspired menu offers a wide range of choices from wood-oven fired pizza to burgers to king crab, and Belly executes each dish with precision. The gloriously new atmosphere and über-attentive wait staff leave little room for want. The prices are steep for the 'hood but, for the palate-pleasing performance of the experience, worth the extra dollar.

Lincoln

3808 N. Williams Ave., 503-288-6200,
www.lincolnpdx.com

One step in and you'll forget you're in NE—maybe forget you're in Portland altogether. The warmth of the open space, the newness of the wood paneling and the crispness of the entire experience seem more like a true metropolitan city than I'm willing to admit. The menu is brief and precise. The salads are defined by classic simplicity. The entrees are booming with girthy flavor and stick to the tried and true. But the real stars are the starters. The complexity of the layers of flavor and the composition of presentation are creative and exquisite. Sure, the pork chop with cherries and beans is delish, but the duck egg with bacon and English peas on crostone? So in.

Firehouse

711 N.E. Dekum St., 503-954-1702

This restaurant resides on the main floor of a beautifully restored historic firehouse. The menu is simple and is laden with local bounty from our back yards. A perfect trio (choose any three small plates for \$12) begins with the slightly sweet house-cured sockeye, paired with pickled vegetables and then pork confit. The fennel-roasted pork shoulder and roast leg of lamb make stunning appearances as well, but what's dining at a firehouse without the fire? Try the wood-fired rock cod or a wood-oven pizza with spicy sausage. Now there's reason to sound the alarm. ☺

JENNY NGUYEN is heading to the other side next. So don't all you west-siders get yer panties in a twist. Unravel your indigestion by writing to epiqueerean@comcast.net.

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Breakfast and Lunch

FRANCIS RESTAURANT

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