



**Epi-queer**  
BY JIM RADOSTA

## All in the Family

"Keep it together in the family," sings Madonna, the patron saint of fags, on her *Like a Prayer* album. "They're a reminder of your history."

In the spirit of "family"—and in honor of this fine publication's 25th anniversary—let's spotlight some of Portland's longest-running gay-owned establishments. These three eateries by no means represent the entirety of your queer culinary options, but they will give you an inkling of how easy it is to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner across town while supporting talented restaurateurs who have earned their staying power.

### Wild Abandon Restaurant & the Red Velvet Lounge

2411 S.E. Belmont St., 503-232-4458,  
[www.wildabandonrestaurant.com](http://www.wildabandonrestaurant.com)

Since 1995, Michael Cox has satisfied diners with a creative menu, charming staff and popular events such as Amber Martin's zany one-woman show and an annual benefit for Our House of Portland. But it's the food that keeps us coming back: There's nothing like rolling out of bed with a weekend hangover, entering Wild Abandon's funky space filled with vintage hanging lamps (or, when the weather cooperates, sitting out back on the serene patio) and stuffing your gut with a breakfast burrito generously packed with potatoes, black beans, eggs, salsa, guac, sour cream and optional chorizo. Wash it all down with a peppery Bloody Mary, and you're set for the day.

### Cadillac Cafe

1801 N.E. Broadway, 503-287-4750

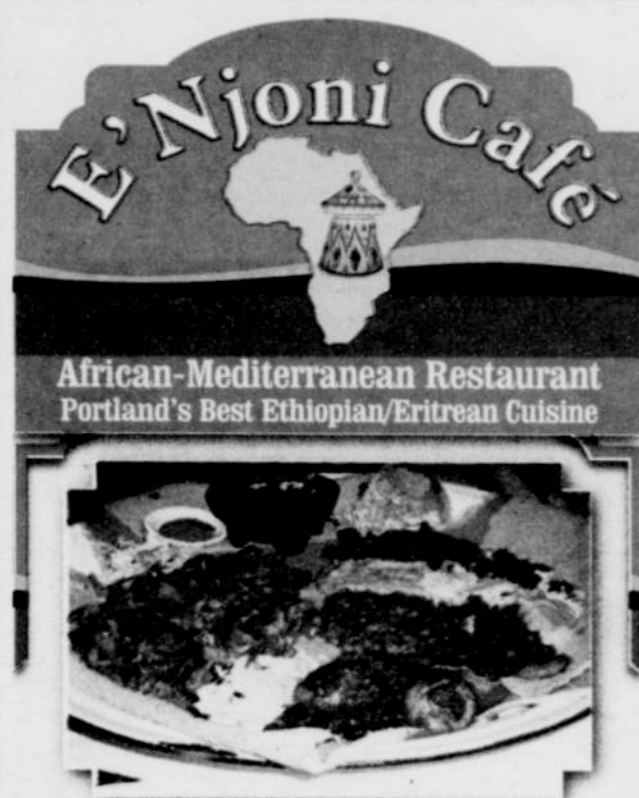
Although I still miss its cozier, earthier previous location down the street, Cadillac had a good reason for moving into a bigger home: high demand. Rod Brackenbury and Terry Hughes, who have owned the cafe for 19 years, know exactly how to please a gay lunch crowd. For the health-conscious twinks, try the Chinese Chopped Turkey Salad, a crispy combination of jicama, sweet peppers, cabbage, basil and cilantro, coated in a tasty sesame lime dressing. Meanwhile, the hungry-man bear can chow down on the Monte Cristo Sandwich, a decadent delight with turkey, ham and fontina served on thick grilled sourdough dipped in sweet custard egg batter. Gets my motor running!

### Chameleon Restaurant & Bar

2000 N.E. 40th Ave., 503-460-2682,  
[www.chameleonpdx.com](http://www.chameleonpdx.com)

This place might be located off the gourmet's beaten path in the Hollywood District, but inside you'll find a romantic ambiance to accompany a richly diverse menu. Chef/owner Pat Jeung derives inspiration from his globetrotting adventures, so your mouth can travel around the world without leaving home. Among the destinations: Thailand (thinly sliced flank steak salad coated in cilantro and lime dressing), Argentina (rib-eye with flavorful Chimichurri sauce), Chile (hearty beef stew) and Hawaii (succulent pork ribs glazed with passion fruit barbecue sauce). Mark your calendar for Jan. 11, 2009, when Chameleon will celebrate its 12th anniversary with another wild, creative Hat Party. 10

Arts and Culture Editor JIM RADOSTA needs your feedback. E-mail him at [jim@justout.com](mailto:jim@justout.com).



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