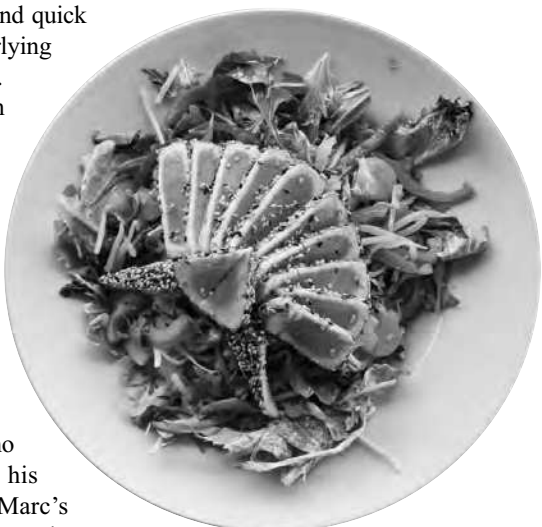


the barbeque sauce, a mix of tangy, sweet, sour and spicy that sparks up any of the food. When Condof was pregnant with their first child, she craved horseradish sauce, so Copperman came up with the creamy wasabi sauce. For those who aren't vegan, this lovely condiment rings up the right slow burn and quick fade while providing an underlying punch (see recipe on page 20).

Nestled beside Baskin Robbins and Metropol, the space works partially because (ironically, Condof notes) it actually used to be a Subway. After looking at the menu pasted to the counter or above their heads, patrons choose a grill, a salad or both, and one of the nine employees — for instance, the pierced guy who bikes everywhere wearing his Three Forks sweatshirt ("Marc's great! He's been with us for a long time," Condof says) — places each person's food separately in a container. You want extra green onions on top? Cool. Want to mix the sauces? Weird, but OK. Absolutely no peppers for you? No problem.

Portions that look normal behind the counter grow to gargantuan size by the time the food arrives, transformed, on its heavy plates. Almost everyone in the restaurant grows satiated somewhere a third to halfway through the meal.



Luckily, take-home containers (of recyclable material, of course) sit on the counter beside the soda machine. Presto! Take a little of that Northwest pan-Asian freshness back to the fridge.



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