

Chef Mike Davis

Chef Davis is best known as the Founder, Chef and Owner of the highly acclaimed 26brix in Walla Walla, Wash., a restaurant that garnered a reputation for impeccable food and service.

Under Chef Davis, 26brix was featured in such publications as Bon Appétit, Food Arts, Food & Wine, The New York Times, USA Today, Sunset and Travel & Leisure. The restaurant's 180+ bottle wine list received the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Davis was also honored twice as a guest chef at James Beard House (2005, 2006).

Now 35, Davis began cooking up his future career at age nine, when he wrote a letter to Julia Child—whose reply inspired the aspiring chef. Davis studied culinary arts at both Seattle Community College and the Art Institute of Colorado, but found the best way to learn was by doing. Davis made his way through kitchens in New Orleans, Colorado and California, before returning to his home state. After a successful term as Executive Chef at Salish Lodge, Chef Davis went on to make his mark at 26brix.

Notes Davis, "My skills are grounded in classic, French technique. However, my ever-evolving sense of taste leads me toward high quality, wholesome dishes prepared simply. My passion is to bring out the best flavor possible from the ingredients I have."

To this day, he continues to follow the sage advice Julia shared in that letter: "Just cook, cook, cook."

Heavy Restaurant Group is the management team supporting Barrio, Purple Café and Wine Bar and all future concepts. Heavy's management office is located at 1218 Third Ave., Ste. 900, Seattle, 98101 (206-838-3852). For information, please see Heavy Restaurant Group online at www.heavyrestaurantgroup.com.

Barrio offers a Northwest approach to Mexican-inspired cuisine with creative, classically balanced, Latin-focused cocktails. Barrio is located at 1420 12th Ave., Seattle, Wash. with a Bellevue location slated to open mid-2009. For more information, please see Barrio Restaurant online at www.barriorestaurant.com.

Purple Café and Wine Bar—with three locations in Kirkland, Seattle and Woodinville, Wash.—is a multifaceted food and wine concept specializing in an eclectic Northwest-inspired menu coupled with an extensive global wine

selection, including 90 wines by the glass, wine flights and hundreds of other wines by the bottle. In 2008, all three restaurants were voted “Best Place for Wine Tasting” in Seattle Magazine’s “Reader’s Choice” poll. Purple Seattle is a two time winner of Evening Magazine’s ‘Best of Western Washington’ contest in the category of “Best Wine Bar,” and Wine Enthusiast’s “Award of Ultimate Distinction.”

Purple is located at 323 Park Place, Kirkland, Wash. (425-828-3772), 1225 Fourth Ave., Seattle (206-829-2280) and 14459 Woodinville-Redmond Rd., Woodinville, Wash. (425-483-7129) with a location opening in Bellevue Towers in mid 2009. Purple Café and Wine Bar’s management office is located at 1218 Third Ave., Ste. 900, Seattle, 98101 (206-838-3852). Visit www.thepurplecafe.com for hours and more information.