# ZAGAT

Boston Restaurants 2007/08

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#### Key Newcomers

While The Departed put Boston on the cinematic map, the city's culinary map is dotted with arrivals. Below is our take on some of the past year's most notable newcomers. (For a complete list, see page 256.)

All Star Sandwich Bar Incontro

Alta Strada La Brace

Avila LTK

Beacon St. Tavern

Bin 26 Enoteca Oishii Boston (South End)

Bouchée Pava

Copia Petit Robert Bistro (South End)

Masona Grill

dante POPS

Douzo Rustic Kitchen (Park Square)

51 Lincoln Sasso

flour bakery (Seaport District) Tresca

While the above list features a host of debut ventures, like dante and Pops, it also contains its fair share of branches of established favortes. Without a doubt, to their ever-hungry owners, area restaurants appear to be like potato chips: you can't have just one. Even as flour takery & café sprouted a sibling in the up-and-coming Seaport District, the South End original welcomed to its neighborhood Franches of Petit Robert Bistro - a ringer for its Kenmore Square sire and Oishii Boston, which comes as the city-slick counterpart to the uburban sushi bars that bore it. Brookline sleeper Washington square Tavern watched its more visible offshoot, Beacon Street Tavern, take off mere blocks away, while Italian steakhouse Davio's in \*ark Square created a quasi-clone in close proximity, the Theater District's Mediterranean-themed Avilla. Similarly, Prezza proudly fathered Charlestown's Mediterranean-accented Copia, while fellow North Ender Lucca saw Sasso - an equally upscale Italian spot - born in the Back Bay. And after a couple of years, Rustic Kitchen returns to Boston - Park Square to be precise - with a happening new Italian spot.

In the year to come, Bostonians will witness the continued expansion of many mini-empires. Staking his claim on the Nine Zero Hotel near Downtown Crossing, Ken Oringer of Clio and Toro fame is transforming the former Spire into modern steakhouse KO Prime. Flour bakery's Joanne Chang is planning her first full-service eatery in the South End, where casual Asian eats will abound. The folks behind blu aim to introduce the cuisine of the Italian region Liguria to the South End's Harrison Avenue via ROCCA Kitchen & Bar – and just down the block, the Aquitaine Restaurant Group is gearing up for Gaslight Brasserie du Coin, featuring French classics. Indeed, that once-sleepy stretch of the neighborhood is expected to see major activity of the gastronomic kind – as is the fledgling Seaport District, where the recent opening of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center has already triggered a wave of development.