



Bottom Row, Second from right

SPARK ST. JUDE
JAY SWIFT/4th & Swift

Essential Eats

Atlanta's top 25 chefs

By Kirsten Ott

Every year, we publish our Essential Eats, a guide to the best dining in Atlanta. In 2005, we educated readers on the 50 dishes with the most culinary character. In 2006, we indulged in the best, most decadent desserts. Last year, we told you the hottest spots to take your date to. Now, we introduce you to the top 25 chefs in Atlanta. We've picked these visionary talents based on how much we love eating their creations, their awards and accolades, their aspirations and achievements, their creativity and innovations and what they've done for this city's dining scene. The winning chefs make us—and Atlanta—proud. Bon appétit!

JAY SWIFT/4th & Swift

621 North Ave. NE, 678-904-0160, www.4thandswift.com

CLAIM TO FAME: After serving as executive chef for other well-known restaurants in town, Swift recently went out on his own with the newly minted 4th and Swift, where he's already drawing quite a crowd with his innovative take on Southern cuisine. The big-hearted restaurateur also finds time to give back to the community with the Georgia chapter of the American Liver Foundation.

DISH TO TRY: Seared George's Bank diver scallops served on pumpkin risotto, pumpkin seed and golden raisin pesto with fall greens.