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SEATTLE
FEBRUARY 2008

Recipes for ROMANCE

Local chefs deliver the dish on the ultimate Seattle Valentine's Day. BY ANGELA GARBES

It's almost impossible to think of Valentine's Day without thinking of going out for a romantic dinner. Food and romance go hand-in-hand—both nourish people and bring them closer together through sensual experience. So what do the chefs who make the food that lovers love to eat do for romance? These three couples, all of whom own and operate successful restaurants in the Seattle area, share what it's like to live and work with your true love everyday. They've also generously passed on their own "recipes for romance" to help you plan the perfect Valentine's Day date.

SABRINA TINSLEY & PIETRO BORGHESI OSTERIA LA SPIGA

1429 12th Ave, 323-8881

Sabrina Tinsley and Pietro Borghesi's love story could make even the most cynical person believe in the possibility of love at first sight. Sabrina, originally from Alaska, was living abroad in Salzburg, Germany. Pietro was on a reluctant trip from his native Italy to the very cold city with some of his buddies for Oktoberfest. When Sabrina sat down at the table next to Pietro's in a cafe, he told her, in Italian, "We're happy that you came to sit by us." They talked for three hours; they just celebrated their fourteenth wedding anniversary. "I just knew," says Sabrina.

Tinsley and Borghesi lived in Italy together for five years. Her passion for food and cooking and his knowledge and experience blended perfectly, and they ran different businesses together, including a frozen yogurt shop and a piadina, or sandwich, shop. When the couple moved to Seattle, they opened Osteria La Spiga, specializing in food and wine from Emilia-Romagna, Pietro's home region. For many years in its original small location in a supermarket plaza, Sabrina cooked and Pietro ran the front of the house, and La Spiga became a treasured Seattle restaurant.

Just over a year ago, Tinsley and Borghesi expanded La Spiga into a beautiful, more spacious spot and hired more staff. "I miss asking Pietro to come help me in the kitchen," Tinsley says of La Spiga's old days. "But it's really nice. Now we don't have to be there every night and have more time to spend with our kids."

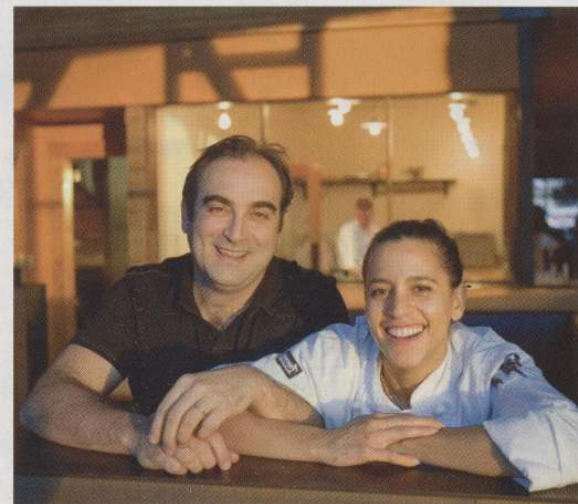
SABRINA & PIETRO'S "GREAT DATES"

Get Aways

"Romance, for us, means getting away, if only for a little while," says Sabrina. An easy trip is just a few hours south. "We recently went to Portland for two days. We ate out every single meal—great food, great drinks."

The Harvest Vine (2701 E Madison, 320-9771)

When they're not sneaking away with some of their newfound free time, Sabrina and Pietro love Madison Valley's The Harvest Vine. The small restaurant serves Basque food from its open kitchen on the ground floor, and also has a cozy subterranean wine bar. "It's so intimate," says Sabrina, "It's our little in-town place."



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