

WHERE TO EAT: Denver

David Craig, a former Aspenite now at the helm of Denver's Hotel Teatro, dishes on the city's sizzling dining scene.

ASPENITES ARE ACCUSTOMED to the best in dining, whether it's a casual bite at a comfy bar or a six-course tasting menu in a sumptuous setting. You could say that keeping up on the standout dishes at our mountain town's hot spots is a matter of pride. Throw a Denver weekend into the mix, and where's an Aspen foodie to go? To one of my top 10 recommendations for the best Denver eateries:

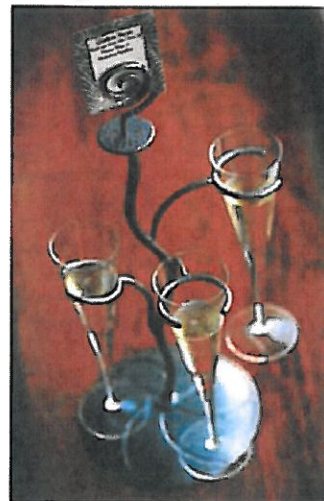
1. For breakfast, the newest spot is **Snooze**. Get there early because the line is usually out the door. The pineapple upside-down pancakes are to die for. 2262 Larimer Street, 303-297-0700; snoozedenver.com.

2. **Rioja** features an innovative menu in a warm and inviting atmosphere and houses a brick-oven bakery. Try chef Jennifer Jasinski's picnic cheese plate, among other specialties. 1431 Larimer Street, 303-820-2282; riojadenver.com.

3. Looking for a hip bistro? Pull up a chair at **Il Posto**, where freshness is the mantra and dishes are made up of no more than five ingredients. Let chef Andrea choose your menu—you won't be disappointed. 2011 East 17th Avenue, 303-394-0100; ilpostodenver.com.

4. For a cool ambience try **Zengo**, a lovely walk to Riverfront from 16th Street. Sip on cucumber mojitos and order the wonton tacos and Kobe beef served on a hot stone. 1610 Little Raven Street, Riverfront Park, 720-904-0965; modernmexican.com.

5. For a change of scenery, try **Swim Club 32**, which made "going green" cool way before it hit the mainstream. Enjoy fresh, home-grown herbs and local produce in the scenic Highlands



ABOVE:
Rioja picnic
cheese plate;
LEFT: Corridor
44.

area. 3628 West 32nd Avenue, 720-889-7946; swimclub32.com.

6. For an unsurpassed view of the Denver skyline with the perfect happy-hour margarita in hand, try **Lola**. Also in the Highlands area, the tucked-away Lola serves satisfying fare, including breakfast. 1575 Boulder Street, 720-570-8686; loloadenver.com.

7. When a little people-watching is in order, visit **Corridor 44**. Champagne is the specialty and the



raspberry truffle Champagne cocktail is tops. 1433 Larimer Square, 303-893-0044; corridor44.com.

8. For a special occasion or an impulsive indulgence, make a reservation at **Restaurant Kevin Taylor**, where the chef and staff will pamper you with the best service in town. Try the chilled jumbo lump crabmeat cocktail in a cucumber gelée. 1100 14th Street, 303-228-1100; hotelteatro.com.

9. When only sushi will satisfy, visit **Sushi Sasa**. Serving imaginative creations in an intimate environment, the restaurant also features delectable veggie tempura dishes. 2401 15th Street, 303-433-7272; sushisasadenver.com.

10. When you're hankering for satisfying and straightforward, go to **Proto's Pizza** in the sleepy Platte Street district for the perfect slice. Order the Atomica pizza and a Guinness. 2401 15th Street, 720-855-9400; protospizza.com.