



## ESSENTIAL

## FOOD **SP**

# ESSENTIAL EATS

The 25 most important restaurants in Atlanta

BY KIRSTEN PALLADINO

**E**very year, we compile a list of the best restaurants or chefs in a different category for our big Essential Eats issue. I've had the pleasure of culling that list for the past four. For 2010, we wanted to hone in on which restaurants are worth their salt, are making a real impact on the community and outshine their competitors on a busy Friday night. The criteria? Well, it's certainly not just the fancy restaurants, though there are plenty on the list. We didn't include any chains whatsoever (and yes, two of one restaurant constitutes a chain for our purposes). What went into this list beyond a lot of dining out, sweat, tears and love was consideration of you, dear reader. Where do we know you'll have a lovely experience with service, cuisine, décor and memories? This list, in the simplest of explanations, is about what we think defines eating in this great big melting pot of a city we're proud to call our home.

**COVER**



4th and Swift

Bacchanalia

**HOLIDAZE**  
COBB ENERGY CENTRE  
NOV. 30- DEC. 5  
SEE OUR AD  
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### THE 25 MOST IMPORTANT RESTAURANTS IN ATLANTA

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#### ABATTOIR

Situated in a former slaughterhouse, Abattoir focuses on the whole animal, so nothing goes to waste. This translates to a surprisingly tasty meal of heartwarming tripe stew (stomach lining), crunchy chicharrones (fried pork skin) and barbecued veal sweetbreads (soft, edible portions of the thymus and pancreas). For the less adventurous eater, there are some darn good steaks, shrimp and desserts to be had in this farmhouse-designed eatery. 1170 Howell Mill Road NW. 404-892-3335. [www.starprovisions.com](http://www.starprovisions.com).

**A HOLIDAY CHALLENGE**

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**LETTER TO**

**ICE OFFICER**

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[editorial]



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