

# Clint Eats



By Clint Hamblin

**W**ith a healthy influx of new restaurants, chefs, menus and cocktails, Boston's ever evolving food scene continues to seduce hungry local, national and international guests to dine at our table. Let's see what's on the menu:

## New Chefs

The new executive chef for the **Taj Boston** is Franck Steigerwald who brings with him a history of culinary successes from his beginnings in Bordeaux and years in his native France. Steigerwald's credits include **Maestro** restaurant at The Ritz-Carlton, Tyson's Corner in McLean, Virginia, **Artisans**, the AAA 5 Diamond restaurant at The Ritz-Carlton Resorts of Naples in Florida and The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples. **The Café**, located within Taj Boston on the corner of Arlington and Newbury Street, has been a Boston landmark for more than 55 years, and Steigerwald has been busy developing this historic restaurant's menu, reportedly combining French and Italian influences

with traditional New England flavors.

Jacqueline Kelly has jumped into the executive chef position at the **MFA**, and look out – she's making some changes. Kelly's new menu for **Bravo** includes beef tartare with shaved artichoke salad and aged parmesan and pan seared Maine hake with butter beans, Portuguese chorizo and escarole. Bravo is located within the MFA where the service and quality of food is at the level you would expect to find within this stately environment.

## Restaurant Openings

What better way to spread the word about a new eatery than with a splashy opening night party? Show off the restaurant's most outstanding culinary creations to what should be the elite "A" guest list and then watch a fight to the finish with pretentious press people for that last fast-moving shrimp! What fun! Let's have another glass of wine.

Executive chef Aldo Velaj hosted an opening night party for **Vlora**, his subterranean Mediterranean eatery located at

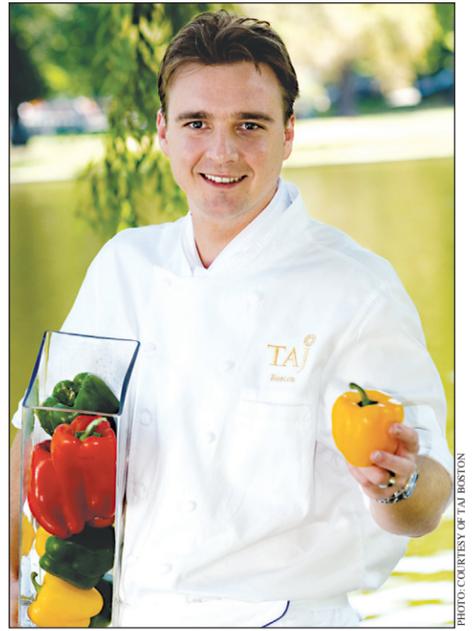
545 Boylston Street where too many people competed for too few morsels of food served by some of the speediest waiters in the Back Bay. Vlora's wine flowed all night, and some of us aggressive and in-shape eaters managed to snare a couple of bite-sized hors d'oeuvres including a salty and sweet watermelon square topped with feta appetizer. The fig bites, or figs cut in half and stuffed with goat cheese and walnuts, were actually worthy of the chase. All good stuff – all too quickly gone! Vlora's signature dish is an ostrich steak, something not seen on many Boston menus.

With just a few days to go before the doors open at **Haru**, located at the Shops at Prudential Center, General Manager Patrick Sansec is struggling to find enough qualified kitchen help for what is expected to be a high-volume operation. An army of bicycle delivery people needs to be recruited to service Back Bay's sushi demands. The November 8 opening, held as a benefit for the Greater Boston Food Bank, will include geishas as greeters, klieg lights out front, and music by a prominent Boston DJ but you must have an invitation to compete for those hors d'oeuvres. On your mark, get set, go!

## Halloween Events

**Masa**, located at 439 Tremont Street in the South End, will celebrate Halloween with a costumed staff of vampires, witches and goblins. Tapas will be served from 5 pm to 12 am along with discount margaritas while a DJ spins music from 9 pm to 1 am to complete the Southwestern "nightmare of an evening." Dig up your spookiest drag and maybe you can win the best costume award.

And speaking of drag, located within the **Hotel Commonwealth** at 500 Commonwealth Avenue, **Great Bay Restaurant** will be hosting their first Drag Brunch on October 28 from 11 am to 3 pm. The staff will be dressed "cross-gendered" and will definitely add amusement to Great Bay's unique brunch experience. If you feel like "dressing-up," by all means,



Taj Boston executive chef Franck Steigerwald

go for it.

**Betty's Wok & Noodle**, located at 250 Huntington Avenue, will host its first Betty's Halloween Bash on Wednesday, October 31. Dress up as Ugly Betty, from the successful TV show with the same name, and you could win a prize, but don't forget to give Betty and her noodles a try.

## Cocktails Anyone?

What Boston restaurant doesn't offer a drink or dessert named after Daisuke Matsuzaka, famed Japanese Red Sox pitcher? **Jer-Ne Restaurant & Bar** at the Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common offers its own version of the Dice-K Tini, a sake, vodka and passion fruit mixture served with a picked ginger garnish and likely to get you swinging – just like Daisuke's pitches.

What Boston restaurant serves your favorite dish or cocktail? Tell me all about it: [clint@hbsboston.com](mailto:clint@hbsboston.com)

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Opening November 2007 at The Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common.

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