

September/October 2012

ISSUE 12 • FREE

SIMPLY buckhead®

YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING WELL IN ATLANTA

The International Issue

L'Édition Internationale

インタナショナル版

LA EDIZIONE INTERNAZIONALE

Edizione Internazionale

Edição Internacional

Edizione Internazionale

Edizione Internazionale



The Atlanta Hawks'

Zaza Pachulia

Why the Eurasian superstar loves calling Buckhead home

Say Hi

ALAIN ZEMMOUR
Southern Art's
general manager

You may frequent Southern Art and Bourbon Bar for its Southern-inspired cuisine and cocktails, but you might not be aware of the hip eatery's behind-the-scenes French connection. Alain Zemmour, Southern Art's general manager, is originally from Paris. In fact, he joined the hospitality industry when he began working in family-owned restaurants in France. He moved to Atlanta in 1995 and is married to a Georgia native.

What is your favorite French restaurant in the Buckhead area?
Anis Bistro. It is very laid-back and easygoing and has good food—even though the chef isn't French, he is American. He is a very good chef, Chef Gomez. [Anis] is just easygoing, not pretentious. You can go in jeans or in a tuxedo if you want to. It is in a house and it's very charming; you feel at home and the owner is a very close friend of mine.

And even though he isn't advertising it as a French restaurant, Fabrice [Vergez] from the former Brasserie Le Coze and FAB downtown just opened F&B and it is becoming a favorite as well.

What is it about Buckhead that attracts so many people of different international backgrounds?

The fact that it is very cosmopolitan. You can be from France or Vietnam or Australia and there is a community here; that gives newcomers a sense of home. It is just so international. I've worked in 18 countries myself, and coming to Atlanta, they are all here too. You can



get so much here, and if you decide to look for it, you can find anything from any culture.

Have you met any fellow French folks in Buckhead?

I try to stay away from them [laughs]. Anybody who knows me will tell you that is true. I do have a few French friends here and the cool thing is that I'm the only one raised in Paris; everybody else is from another region of France. Everybody is somehow in the food industry, so whenever we get together it is really food- and wine-oriented and we have two- or three-hour lunches. The French American Chamber of Commerce is a big deal here too, and actually the president of it happens to be one of the top executives at the InterContinental Hotel Group.

Do you hear French spoken often in Southern Art or have any French customers?

We do, not as much as when it was Au Pied de Cochon, because it was a French restaurant before this. We have people traveling and coming through the hotel ... there are a lot of French-speaking countries in the world. We had a table from Senegal, Africa, the other night and they were all French-speaking. We have Canadians, Belgians, Swiss, some French, but it is really just people coming by—not everyone is into fried chicken.

India

SAVOR

● Buckhead's Indian gastronomy features landmark restaurants and nouveau eateries, providing numerous options for curry lovers. Raja Indian Restaurant, opened in 1979 in the heart of Buckhead by Calcutta native Ramen Saha, continues its tradition of highlighting North Indian cuisine with tandoori lamb, chicken and shrimp specialties that bring diners back for more. Cardamom Hill, a newer arrival on the Indian food scene in Berkeley Park, spotlights the cuisine of owner Asha Gomez's homeland, Kerala. The restaurant combines the coastal state's seafood, coconut and spices with modern Western styles, resulting in dishes like Kerala-style fried chicken and spicy fish curry. For another culinary adventure, visit Zyka in Decatur, where the Hyderabad cuisine is inspired by Chef and Owner Nooruddin Fazal's frequent trips to his homeland. Adding to the Buckhead area's Indian epicurean options is Bhojanic, which is set to open a location at Shops Around Lenox in 2012.

STUDY

● Practice the art of Indian dance in the comfort of your own Buckhead home. Professional dancer Sanam Azeem of Sanam Studios teaches one-hour workshops or private lessons on basic Bollywood moves that will have you channeling the characters in *Slumdog Millionaire*. Kruti Dance Academy also offers private Bollywood workshops all over town (including Buckhead) for interested dancers. For a lesson in classical Indian dance, call Kalatvani Dance & Music Academy. Founded in 2004 by guru Padmaja Kalam, the school specializes in the ancient Indian art form Bharatanatyam and can provide private and semi-private lessons at the location of your choice.

SEE

● The Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University boasts impressive and historically significant works from ancient India. Home to a first-century seated Buddha from Mathura in India, the museum's installation entitled *The Arts of India and the Himala-*



Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University

ya also features an 11th- or 12th-century sculpture of a 18-armed Vishnu (*above*) with numerous swaying attendants. You can also inspect bronze sculptures created by artisans under the Chola Dynasty of South India between the ninth and 13th centuries.

SPEAK

● Sign up for a Beginner 101 Hindi language class at the Language Institute of Atlanta in Sandy Springs and become proficient in India's official language. The Institute's Hindi teachers are all native speakers with a minimum of five years' teaching experience at the university level. Students can learn with a group or opt for private lessons. The 10-week course includes 20 hours of classes—two hours once a week or one hour twice a week. The Institute also offers intermediate and children's classes in Hindi. ▶



The "Bhojanic Shrimp" appetizer combines five jumbo crustaceans with garlic, curry leaves, mustard seeds and tomato-onion masala.

Photo by Danielle Ramirez