

# exposed | tyson cole

executive chef at uchi

photo by mike kane

Tyson Cole is on a journey. Ten years ago, he started as a dishwasher at an Austin sushi restaurant and became fascinated with all aspects of the Japanese cuisine. He taught himself the requisite knife skills and quickly moved up to head sushi chef. After a traditional intensive apprenticeship under an Austin sushi master, Cole traveled to Tokyo and New York to learn Japanese and study with the best. But home was calling. Now Cole is back in Austin as executive chef of Uchi (the Japanese word for "home"), impressing diners with his multicultural combinations.



community

**What do you do on Friday nights?**

I'm usually "in the weeds," (i.e., way behind) 10-20 tickets back, trying to put out the best food that my staff and I can create.

**What's the best compliment on your style?**

The smiles and joy that a perfect bite can provide are all the compliments I need.

**What's the most memorable insult?**

In the beginning of my career, more than 10 years ago, I had an Anglo man refuse to let me make his sushi because I wasn't Japanese. It just made me more determined to get better.

**Who would you like to hear on the radio?**

Built to Spill, Guided by Voices, Pinback, Bjork, Coltrane, and my favorite, Radiohead.

**What three people would you like to have as dinner guests?**

Paul Klee, Martha Stewart, and my wife, Rebekkah.

**Who would you most like to trade jobs with?**

Someone who lives in the forests of northern Japan, who owns and runs a restaurant with 12-20 seats. (Oh, and by the way, it's only open three days a week.)

**Where do you go for inspiration?**

Any market or grocery store. It's like a gigantic palette of colors, flavors, and textures to play with.

**What book should every person read?**

*The History of Luminous Motion* by Scott Bradfield. A child prodigy deals with his dysfunctional family as the world passes by outside the moving car window.

**What are you looking forward to?**

Watching my daughter, Aubrie, grow up and my baby, Uchi, blossom.