

The Dale Rice all-stars

Chefs and restaurants that continue to elevate dining in Central Texas

By Dale Rice

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Dozens of chefs and restaurant owners have made their mark on Austin as the city became a recognized dining destination. But far fewer of them have exhibited influence beyond their kitchens and staying power in the face of fierce competition. As I retire and begin a new career as a Texas A&M journalism professor, I look back over the nearly 15 years I have reviewed restaurants for the Austin American-Statesman. I see places that made a difference, places with the original chefs or owners who helped drive local cuisine upward with grace, creativity and artistry. Here are those restaurants, my all-time all-stars in Central Texas dining.

The Dale Rice all-stars *(continued from 6)*

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Tyson Cole, right, brings national recognition to Austin. He is the only one of the three Austin chefs cited by Food & Wine magazine as the nation's top young chefs who still has his own local restaurant. With his sushi restaurant, Cole has pushed the boundaries of dining in Texas.



Ralph Barrera 2005 AMERICAN-STATESMAN