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DENVER & BOULDER'S Culinary Legacy

Featuring The Kitchen Denver
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You've no doubt read your share of the "best of the best" when it comes to restaurants and hot new chefs. Though such lists are important, *Denver Life Magazine* chose to take a different approach for our annual food issue. We felt it important to look at the chefs and restaurants that paved the way for Denver and Boulder's blossoming food scene. When other chefs took their toques to San Francisco or New York, these iconic chefs and restaurateurs saw the potential and risked opening restaurants here. Their accolades are well-deserved not only for their contributions as chefs, but also for their commitment to sourcing high quality local ingredients and for their work in training the new talent who are emerging on the food scene today.



DENVER'S FUTURE KITCHEN LEGACY

From the day Chef **Hugo Matheson** and Chef **Kimbal Musk** plated their first entrée at The Kitchen, they've been setting the standard for sustainability and simplicity. Matheson says when he arrived, "The city was waiting for something like The Kitchen to happen." Musk, who came to Boulder, after training in New York, joined Matheson in creating a restaurant with food that both chefs wanted to eat everyday. "Our menu is simple, approachable and changes every single day," Musk says.

In mid-March, The Kitchen shows off its simple side of cuisine to Denver diners with its new location at 1530 16th St., with 180 seats, a 40-seat patio and a wine lounge with eco-friendly keg wines. Denver will also be privy to The Kitchen Community, a 501(c)3 non-profit that raises funds for children's learning gardens. Each of The Kitchen's restaurants is donating a percentage of sales to fund gardens. The design, by Jen Lewin Studio, is an ingenious modular system that can be inserted into any size playground or vacant space. The first garden was built in Denver's Schmitt Elementary in Sept. 2011 with a \$50,000 grant. For more on future projects and The Kitchen Community, visit thekitchencommunity.org