

## DINING OUT

# Kicker's sports new menu, wine list

BY STACY JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

They're kicking it up a notch at Kicker's this spring.

A revamped menu, new wine list and wine tasting events complement the ongoing quest for excellence at the popular Livonia dining and entertainment spot.

"Little by little, we're trying to make a change toward fine dining," said Eriq Lukasik, executive chef and consultant at Kicker's.

The new spring dinner menu features gourmet delights such as pan roasted salmon with Amaretto orange compound butter, a suggestion made by sauté cook Albert Mughamm.

Pete Stoyanovich, former kicker for the Miami Dolphins and the Kansas City Chiefs, and Billy Stoyanovich, former Michigan State University football player, are the owners at Kicker's.

Their team-oriented approach to the restaurant is appealing to Lukasik as he welcomes menu suggestions from his staff. New recipes are tested and offered as

specials before they're considered for the regular menu.

Other new entrees to be introduced next week include Mama Mucci's cheese ravioli, with San Marzano roma tomato marinara and fresh Italian herbs; Guinness Cajun shrimp sauté, featuring jumbo gulf shrimp, sautéed with sweet bell peppers and onions in a lobster beer broth.

Even old favorites like the spinach dip appetizer has been tweaked for improved quality and taste. Boursin, a French herb cheese, replaces the Monterey Jack and cheddar cheese in this dip, giving it a richer flavor.

"It's the little accents I've added just to make the customer a little happier," said Lukasik, who has been with Kicker's for almost a year. "The new menu really reflects my personality and what I think the customers like."

The lunch menu is also changing. Look for the EQ Burger, a char-grilled burger, topped with bacon, Dijon mustard, and Italian Gorgonzola cheese, and crab cakes with sun-dried tomatoes

## KICKER'S

Where: 36071 Plymouth Road, between Wayne Road and Levan, Livonia, (734) 251-5500.

Open: 11 a.m. for lunch Monday-Friday, dinner served until 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and until 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Limited late-night menu available Wednesday-Saturday.

Entrees: Lunch \$5.95-\$10.95, dinner \$7.95-\$25.95

and roasted garlic, in a couple of weeks.

And, when it comes to wine, Lukasik has a good idea what people are looking for. The new wine list is simple, but complete, featuring wines from Italy, France and California.

For champagne connoisseurs, there are four selections, ranging from a \$26 bottle of Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante to a \$160 bottle of Dom Perignon.

There are seven white wine selections, including Montevina Fume Blanc for \$19 per bottle,



Toasting success: Albert Mughamm (left), Pete Stoyanovich, and Eriq Lukasik celebrate the success of Kicker's first wine tasting event.

Clos du Bois chardonnay for \$23 and Banfi "San Angelo" pinot grigio for \$31 per bottle.

There are 11 red wine selections, including Stonehedge cabernet sauvignon for \$23 per bottle, Rutherford Hill merlot for \$54 per bottle and Ruffino Ducale Gold for \$75 per bottle.

"I wanted to get some good wines in and some bottles," said Lukasik. "The wine list has all

the bases covered."

The wines and some of Lukasik's culinary specialties were featured in April at Kicker's first wine tasting event. Attended by about 60 people, Lukasik said the evening was a hit.

"I wanted to do the wine tasting to announce myself, the new wine list, the new menu and all of the changes that are taking place," said Lukasik. "And, to set

the tone for the new direction we are heading in."

Lukasik hopes to host wine tasting events every three months.

In addition to the 150-seat dining room, Kicker's is also home to Joey's Comedy Club, the Perfect 10 martini bar, a dance club and a sports bar. Lukasik said they hope to add a piano bar in the future.

## TABLE HOPPING

Send items for consideration in Table Hopping to Sharon Dargay, special editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (734) 591-7279 or e-mail, [sdargay@oe.homecom.net](mailto:sdargay@oe.homecom.net)

### BRUNCH

Loving Spoonful Restaurant - in Farmington Hills is having a special Mother's Day Buffet with seating at noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, May 12. Menu features herb roasted chicken with white wine, herbs and mushrooms, honey baked ham with orange maple glaze, grilled salmon with sun dried tomato vinaigrette, rock shrimp & Quinoa, marinated roast beef, cheesy macaroni bake, vegetables, assorted salads and desserts. The cost

is \$19.95 per adult, \$12.95 per child under 10. Does not include tax, tip or beverages. The restaurant is at 27925 Golf Pointe Blvd., 1/4 mile west of Halsted Road. Call (248) 489-9400 for reservations/information.

### JUST OPENED

California Pizza Kitchen - at Laurel Park Place Mall in Livonia. On April 29 the restaurant raised \$4,300 for the Make a Wish Foundation of Michigan. California Pizza Kitchen is home of the Original Barbecue Chicken pizza and many other heart-baked pizzas, creative pastas, salads, soups and sandwiches. The new Livonia location is California Pizza Kitchen's third Michigan location. The company also operates restaurants at Somerset Collection in Troy, and Ann Arbor. The Livonia restaurant is open 11

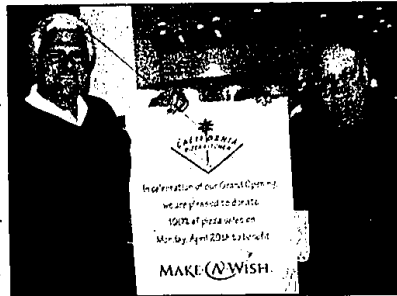
a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. Call (734) 591-0476 for information.

### SPECIAL DINNER

The Lark - Special Italian dinner, 7 p.m. Tuesday or Wednesday, May 28-29 features Pasta with Wood-Grilled Scampi, Soft-Shell Crab with fresh thyme, Peach Granita with Sparkling Wine, Roasted Veal with lemon and sage, mushroom pie, deep-fried baby artichokes, Chocolate Zabaglione Cake with chocolate sauce. Cost \$95 per person, not including beverages, tax or gratuity. Last day for cancellation or reduction of reservations without charge is May 18, 6430 Farmington Road, north of Maple Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 661-4466.

## Making wishes come true: California

Pizza Kitchen founders Larry Flax (left) and Rick Rosenfield were at the grand opening of their newest restaurant at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. California Pizza Kitchen raised \$4,300 for Make A Wish Foundation of Michigan through pizza sales at the new dining facility on April 29.



<p>EDDIE MONEY</p> <p>MAY 24</p>	<p>the knack</p> <p>JUNE 14</p>	<p>The Stylistics</p> <p>JUNE 15</p>	<p>The J. Geils Band</p> <p>JUNE 20</p>	<p>JOHN MICHAEL</p> <p>JUNE 22</p>	<p>AIRE TOUR</p> <p>JUNE 29</p>
<p>NAZARETH</p> <p>JULY 1</p>	<p>MOLLY HATCHET</p> <p>JULY 2</p>	<p>THE DESTROYERS</p> <p>JULY 4</p>	<p>JEFFERSON STARSHIP</p> <p>JULY 7</p>	<p>CHIC WITH NILE RODGERS</p> <p>JULY 11</p>	<p>HUEY LEWIS &amp; THE NEWS</p> <p>JULY 15</p>
<p>CLAY WALKER</p> <p>7/19</p>	<p>FOREIGNER</p> <p>7/21</p>	<p>BUGS BUNNY ON BROADWAY</p> <p>7/22</p>	<p>TOOT &amp; THE TUBES</p> <p>7/26</p>	<p>MARK CHESNUTT/JADE DIFFIE</p> <p>7/28</p>	<p>DOKKEN/RATT</p> <p>7/28</p>
<p>LA GUNS/TREHOUSE/WARRANT</p> <p>7/30</p>	<p>THE DOOBIE BROTHERS</p> <p>7/30</p>	<p>HUEY LEWIS &amp; THE NEWS</p> <p>8/4</p>	<p>EN VOGUE</p> <p>8/5</p>	<p>CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVISTED</p> <p>8/14</p>	<p>HALL &amp; OATES w/ TODD RUNDGREN</p> <p>8/28</p>
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