

COLORADO

expression

Mangia

Best In Colorado By Kathy Smith

Denver's best waiters



NICO EYMAR, RIOJA

RIOJA'S NICO EYMAR

1431 Larimer St., Denver, 303-402-2262, www.rijoadenver.com

THE PUSH Nicolas "Nico" Eymar grew up in the French Riviera region and attended hotel and restaurant management school in France. After answering an online ad for a restaurant management position in Denver, he found himself with a job in a city a long way from home. "I had to open a map to see where Denver was. I had no idea where I was going, but it was close to skiing and the mountains so I figured it would be perfect," he says.

In June 2000, Eymar crossed the Atlantic and settled in Denver, working as a manager for a local French restaurant until March 2005 when he went to work at Rioja as a server. "I've had to break the stereotype of the snobbish French waiter, but it's really been easy because the people are nice and I have a lot of pride in what I do," Eymar states. He also raves about the food renowned Executive Chef Jennifer Szanski prepares at Rioja. "In my opinion, Jennifer is the best chef. I have so much pride in the food I serve because it is perfect—every single item," he explains. Eymar believes he has found his serving niche at Rioja. "The ambience is great, customers are happy and with that I always go the extra mile for customer service," he says.

AMUSE BOUCHE Eymar claims to be the master of the faux pas. He saw a gadget for opening wines with screw caps—which seemed superfluous—on one of his tables. "I asked the woman if she used that, and she said 'why yes, I created it.'"

THE GRATITUDE Denise Snyder, owner of Manel, says what draws she and her customers to Rioja is the unaffected, yet incredibly complex style of cooking that Szanski has. "When I go to Rioja, I know I'm getting freshly prepared food with complex flavors in a beautiful presentation without the affected style," Snyder says.

HOW MUCH DOES
KINDERGARTEN
COST?

LOCAL
COMPANIES
GO BIG

AMERICANA
PHOTOGRAPHY

THE BEST
WAITERS
IN TOWN!

PEDIATRICIAN
DEAN PRINA