



Rioja

Cuisine: Contemporary

Open: L: Wed-Fri, D: Daily,
BR: Sat-Sun

1431 Larimer St.
Denver, 80202
14th & 15th on Larimer

303-820-2282
303-825-2588 (fax)

riojadenver.com

Price: \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Reservations: Yes

Brunch: Yes

Late Night: No

Outdoor Dining: Yes

Location: Larimer Square

Rioja is everything a restaurant should be. Under the guidance of Chef/Owner Jennifer Jasinski and front-of-the-house partner Beth Gruitch, this charming place brings a new level of incredible dining to Larimer Square. The design is chic and classy, with soft colors, glass sculptures and stunning modern artwork. Beautifully appointed tables and soft-patterned booths make for lovely, comfortable dining. The open kitchen and an inviting bar serve as a focal point. A second bar and dining area, complete with pizza station, adds excitement to the scene. The menu changes often and shows Jen's incredible talent. Start with oysters Rockefeller, fresh bacon with curry, brick oven flat bread, and tuna sashimi and tuna tartare. Or indulge in hand-made mozzarella wrapped in prosciutto, or the Rioja picnic platter. Pastas are a specialty of Jen's, and her creativity is apparent with delicious choices in ravioli, pappardelle and gnocchi preparations. Entrées of chicken, Colorado lamb two ways and hanger steak please all. Fish lovers will be delighted with halibut, big-eye tuna, salmon and scallops. Exciting accompaniments enhance each dish. Desserts include crème brûlée, a pineapple trio, beignets, tortamisu, and a divine chilled s'mores pot de crème and gelato. The well-chosen wine list is fabulous both in options and price. Excellent service attests to Rioja's attention to detail. Jen has won many well-deserved awards for her fabulous cuisine. Rioja delights lucky Denverites with some of the top dining in the city.

Your guide to dining in the greater
Denver area by Pat Miller and friends