



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

Rioja



Cuisine: Contemporary

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

riojadenver.com

1431 Larimer St.

303-820-2282

Denver, 80202

14th & 15th on Larimer

Price: \$\$\$\$

Outdoor Dining: Yes

Reservations: Yes

Brunch: Yes

Location: Larimer Square

Rioja ranks among Denver's best restaurants for good reason. Chef/Owner Jennifer Jasinski has been nominated for several big awards, and her partner, Front of the House, Beth Gruitch, is equally fabulous and together they create a very special restaurant with the best food, wine and service. The new menu is fabulous starting with great wines, great breads, and a nightly amuse as you decide on dinner. Appetizers include asparagus soup with a tempura garlic strip, gazpacho with crab, the picnic plate, shrimp, and more. Salads include the Greek salad, a very different version of Greek, but very innovative and good, mozzarella with mango, and the avocado, mushroom, and radicchio salad with orange and orange vinaigrette. The half chicken arrives with potato salad, duck, lamb, beef, and several fish are done with complementary sides that change often. Several pastas entice as entrées or a small first or second course as well. And there is always a vegetarian option. End with a decadent version of tiramisù, a delicious lemon tart with ice cream-and lemon sorbet, or something from the list of the day. With phenomenal service, every guest knows they are the most special of the night and want to hurry back. Congratulations for all.