

Archives

November 2010



Cover Story  
2010 Best Restaurants

By [Karen Brooks](#) and [Mike Thelin](#)

A handful of Portland restaurateurs have helped make local cuisine a driving force in Portland life and a magnet for the foodies of the world.

**Evolution of the Revolution** Eight venues that represent the latest evolution of Portland's scene.

**The Icons** Eight of the eateries that defined—and are still defining—a movement.

**Around the World on \$25 (Or Less)** 10 great international destinations (plus Texas) on a budget

[Read More »](#)



RESTAURANTS

Search by Name

Any Neighborhood

Any Cuisine

FIND

+ EVENTS

+ FOOD CARTS

+ BARS

+ SHOPS

+ TRAILS

+ GETAWAYS

Join our mailing list: Enter email address

Eat & Drink

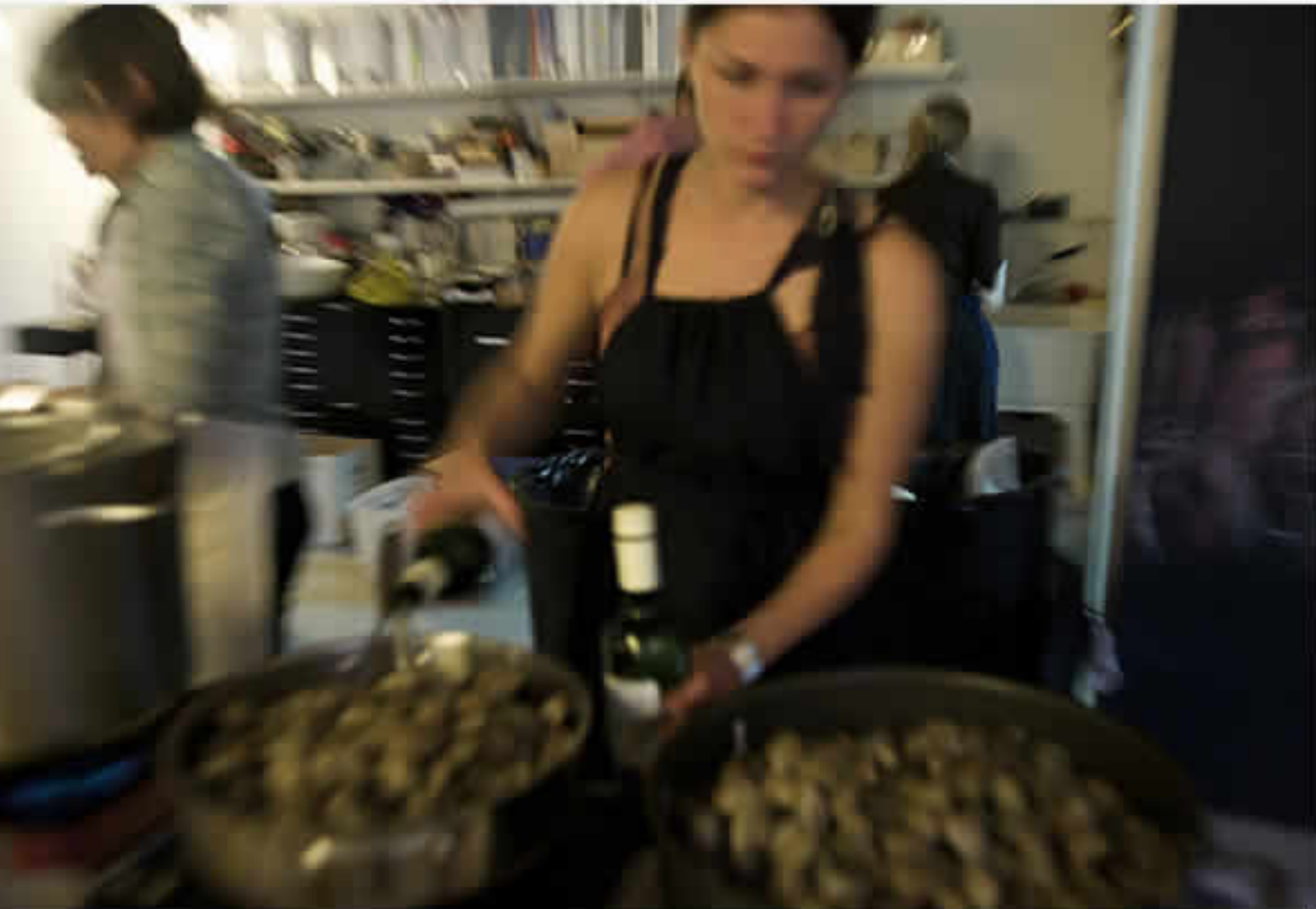
Email | ShareThis | Print | Text Size: A | A | A

Best Restaurants

2010 Best Restaurants: Evolution of a Revolution

*Eight of the brightest ideas on the Portland food scene*

By [Karen Brooks](#) and [Mike Thelin](#)



Din Din Supper Club

[dindinportland.com](#)

Prices and locations vary; \$45-60 per person (on average)

It's not every day you eat 23 exquisite dishes over four hours with 14 strangers in a Sellwood funeral parlor reborn as an eccentric music hall. Or swoon over squab primed by thick cream and fat blackberries while watching suntanned studs battle a 50-foot crab (thanks to 1961's *Mysterious Island* projected on the wall). Or conclude one of the most ambitious meals staged in recent Portland history with cognac and chocolates to the sounds of your dinner companions playing pool. All this, in one evening, while a DJ spins old-school soul music—sometimes loud enough to wake the dead.

But Din Din Supper Club—a monthly (or more often) meal held at changing venues—is not an everyday dining experience. Rising talent Courtney Sproule, age 29, has imagined one of the culinary adventures of the year: fine dining without the starch, to say the least. This is serious eating, sourced from farms and ranches an arm-stretch away and art-directed to surprise and delight while challenging your comfort zone.

The unexpected is part of the fun: brunches with skateboarding waiters; four-course evenings with musicians dancing on the tables; or, in the case of the 23-dish blowout, games of culinary scale, the table set with mile-high candelabras and triptychs of teeny servings on teeny plates—a reminder to appreciate the small in a world that increasingly feels too big. No two menus are alike, and all showcase Sproule's skills and imagination, from a rack of venison with violet mustard sauce to eye-popping pasta made with flower petals pressed between translucent sheets of dough and draped over creamed, braised rabbit. For all the creativity, nothing Sproule does is random; each ingredient has a purpose and a framework, whether it's a Spitzenberg apple crisp with cheddar ice cream or even one of Sproule's trademark pop-culture quizzes. Bring your appetite ... and an open mind. Din Din feels like a Mad Hatter's tea party; weird, eye-widening, and inspiring. —KB



Photo: [David Lanthan Reamer](#)

Courtney Sproule

Free help and free stuff at  
[energytrust.org/free](#)



ADVERTISEMENT



ADVERTISEMENT

2010 Best Restaurants

Order up

Welcome to America's most-talked about food destination:

Evolution of a Revolution

The latest evolution of Portland's food scene

[Grüner](#)  
[Whiskey Soda Lounge](#)  
[Din Din Supper Club](#)  
[Castagna](#)  
[Tasty N Sons](#)  
[Olympic Provisions](#)  
[Evoe](#)  
[Metrovino](#)

The Icons

The restaurant pioneers—what they achieved and how they are innovating right now

[Paley's Place](#)  
[Bunk Sandwiches](#)  
[Pok Pok](#)  
[Beast](#)  
[Le Pigeon](#)  
[Navarre](#)  
[Simpatica Dining Hall, Laurelhurst Market](#)  
[Nostrana](#)

Around the World on \$25 (Or Less)

The wallet-friendly, ever-more-worldly, ethnic wonders in the metro area

[Bun Bo Hue, Vietnam](#)  
[Good Taste Noodle House, Canton](#)  
[Podnah's Pit, Texas](#)  
[Shiraz, Persia](#)  
[Yoko's, Japan](#)  
[Nick's Italian Cafe, Italy](#)  
[Autentica, Mexico](#)  
[Lucky Strike, Sichuan](#)  
[My Brother's Crawfish, Louisiana](#)  
[Duh Kuh Bee, Korea](#)  
[Chennai Masala, India](#)



Seattle Metropolitan  
Seattle Metropolitan Bride & Groom  
Portland Bride & Groom

Subscriber Services:

[New Subscriptions](#)  
[Account Center](#)  
[Subscriber FAQs](#)

Email Newsletters:

[Eat Beat](#)  
[Arts & Entertainment](#)  
[Style & Shopping](#)  
[Portland Monthly Events](#)  
[Special Offers](#)

Website Services:

[RSS](#)