



BEST NEW RESTAURANTS OF 2006

Surefire successes

Many of the best new restaurants of 2006 were opened by big names or big chains

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When it comes to the restaurant business, there's no such thing as a safe bet.

That said, many of the most celebrated debuts of 2006 seemed about as close to a sure thing as possible. There were well-received new restaurants from some of the most acclaimed names in town, along with openings from well-respected if less-well-known chefs whose résumés include auspicious posts at Lola, Old Hickory Steakhouse and The Mansion on Turtle Creek. Heavy hitters from around the country moved into Dallas, bringing their proven formulas for crowd- and critic-pleasing dining experiences. Even the launch of a small Asian fusion eatery seemed a less-risky proposition with owners married to two of the city's most recognizable celebrity chefs.

Still, not every splashy newcomer had substance to back up its sizzle, and a few notables closed their doors soon after opening.

All restaurants considered for this list were reviewed in 2006, though some opened in late 2005.

Best example of living up to the hype: **Stephan Pyles**

With apologies to VH1, Stephan Pyles may be having the best year ever. The celebrated restaurateur was named Chef of the Year by *Esquire* magazine for the "New Millennium Southwestern Cuisine" served at his namesake downtown restaurant. Although some signature dishes from his Star Canyon days have resurfaced, it's his innovative takes on ceviche and tapas that deservedly garner most of the buzz. A chic urban setting and solicitous service contribute to the five-star experience.



Stephan Pyles

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