

## RESTAURANT UPDATE

### **Brasserie Max & Julie**

4315 Montrose Blvd. • Houston, TX • 713.524.0070

This delightful little restaurant, down the row from Zimm's Wine Bar and occupying the space formerly held by Aries, is a real pleasure. Owned by the same group which operates Cafe Rabelais in the Rice Village, the Brasserie has authentic French brasserie menu items, and very well prepared at that. Appetizers include Traditional Provencale basil and vegetable soup; Soupe a l'oignon; Escargots in red wine sauce; Sauteed chicken livers and pork slivers over frisee lettuce, topped with soft poached egg, and Endives, apple and roasted beet salad. For Regional dishes, try the traditional Alsatian sauerkraut platter; Burgundian beef stew; Lyon Sausage served over creamy mustard sauce; and Cassoulet from Toulouse, duck confit, sausage, pork belly with beans. The Seafood Selection includes Roasted trout Provencale, Salmon papillote with a seasonal assortment of shellfish, and Skate wing with capers and croutons, served with lemon butter sauce. Grilled items designed to tempt are Bone-in rib eye; Veal chop; Rack of lamb; Grilled salmon steak; and Grilled lobster. A variety of vegetable sides are available, and don't forget to order your orange soufflé at the beginning of your meal-it takes twenty-five minutes to make! If a soufflé is not your thing, try Baked apple topped with creme fraiche and vanilla ice cream; Chocolate cake and pistachio nougatine; or Red wine infused pear served over red berries coulis and topped with warm chocolate!

### **The Reserve (The Tasting Room - Uptown Park)**

1101 Uptown Park Blvd. • Houston, TX • 713.993.9800

The gourmet food market adjoining the ever-popular Tasting Room has been converted to an intimate candlelight specialty restaurant, removing the need for the wine-taster-turned-hungry to ever leave the premises! Already known for its tasty and delicate pizzas and its creative cheese trays and daily one-choice dinner specials, the kitchen of TTR has by popular demand of its well-entrenched customer base begun providing full meals in a setting which is contemporary yet warm: taupe walls, zebra motif banquettes, leather armchairs, and tastefully spotlighted wall decor, which includes a stunningly large black and white graphic of The Rolling Stones. The very limited menu includes selected and paired wines, personally chosen by sommelier Tony Elsinga. The menu begins with "Small": Crab and shrimp cocktail with sweet chili sauce and kimchee, Tempura battered and fried artichoke hearts, with Dijon tarragon aioli, and Baby lettuces with Texas chevre, strawberries and toasted pecans with blackberry-peppercorn dressing. "Medium" items include Forcini-crusted salmon with herb butter; 5-spice duck breast with citrus vinaigrette and baby bok choy; Cabernet-braised short ribs with root vegetable puree; Asparagus wrapped in pork loin with sweet potatoes; Lamb sliders with feta, mint, and tzatziki sauce; and Filet mignon with braised greens and sherry demi-glaze. For dessert the choices are: Chocolate pot de creme; Chocolate bread pudding; and Creme brulee. And, when dinner is over, there are many more wines to resume tasting just outside the door of The Reserve!

For more information on Hankamer & Associates or any of our current listings, please visit our website at [www.hankamer.com](http://www.hankamer.com), or call Ray Hankamer at 713.789.7060, ext. 1205. Your comments are welcome: [rhankamer@hankamer.com](mailto:rhankamer@hankamer.com).

Note: By way of qualifications for reviewing restaurants, Hankamer has owned and operated numerous restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, discotheques and banquet halls over the last forty years; he has travelled to over 70 countries and has worked and lived in Europe for over three years; he was co-owner of a home delivery wine of the month club and imported his own wine labels for years. The opinions expressed in Hankamer Commercial RESTAURANT UPDATE are the opinion of Hankamer only and these opinions may not be shared by RED News or any other advertising medium in which UPDATE appears.  
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