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Chef's Corner: Rise No. 1

by Peggy Levinson



Hedda Gioia Dowd, owner of Antique Harvest vintage linen and silver collection, has teamed up with restaurateur Mark McGuire to open Dallas' first—and only—soufflé salon. The aptly named Rise No. 1 offers 13 types of soufflés,

both sweet and savory, salads, sandwiches, wines, and champagnes. The original concept is just a natural extension of Gioia Dowd's personality—from her French mother she got the ritual of the dining experience, enjoying a leisurely meal of tasty food with real silver and linen, unmatched, of course.

Gioia Dowd is not a member of the throw-away society. Like her farmhouse in East Texas, Rise No. 1 is furnished with found objects and recycled materials: Drinking glasses are made from recycled wine bottles, and the plates are made from recycled beach glass. Wall sconces are made from antique French grates, old school desks serve as tables, and their inkwells have been turned into bud vases.

Gioia Dowd's love of antique linens is obvious, from the 80-year-old French linen and hemp fabrics used to make the waiters' aprons, to the hand-embroidered flax napkins imported from chateaux and farmhouses in the South of France. Instead of paper towels in the communal washroom, she uses antique French linens. The flatware is a mix of one-of-a-kind European antique silverplate.

Executive chef Cherif Brahmi, who runs the kitchens at Maguire's and at Rise No. 1, was born in Lyon and classically trained in France. He knows how to make a good soufflé. Specially made French ovens bake the soufflés in about 10 minutes, making it possible to enjoy your leisurely French meal with American speed. Brahmi grows his own herbs in the garden outside. The wine list is quirky and original, subtly pairing the right French wine with each dish. *Rise No.1*. 5360 W. Lovers Ln., Ste. 220; 214-366-9900. www.risesouffle.com.



The private dining space is enclosed by birch trees and offers a view into the kitchen.

photography by Elizabeth Lavin