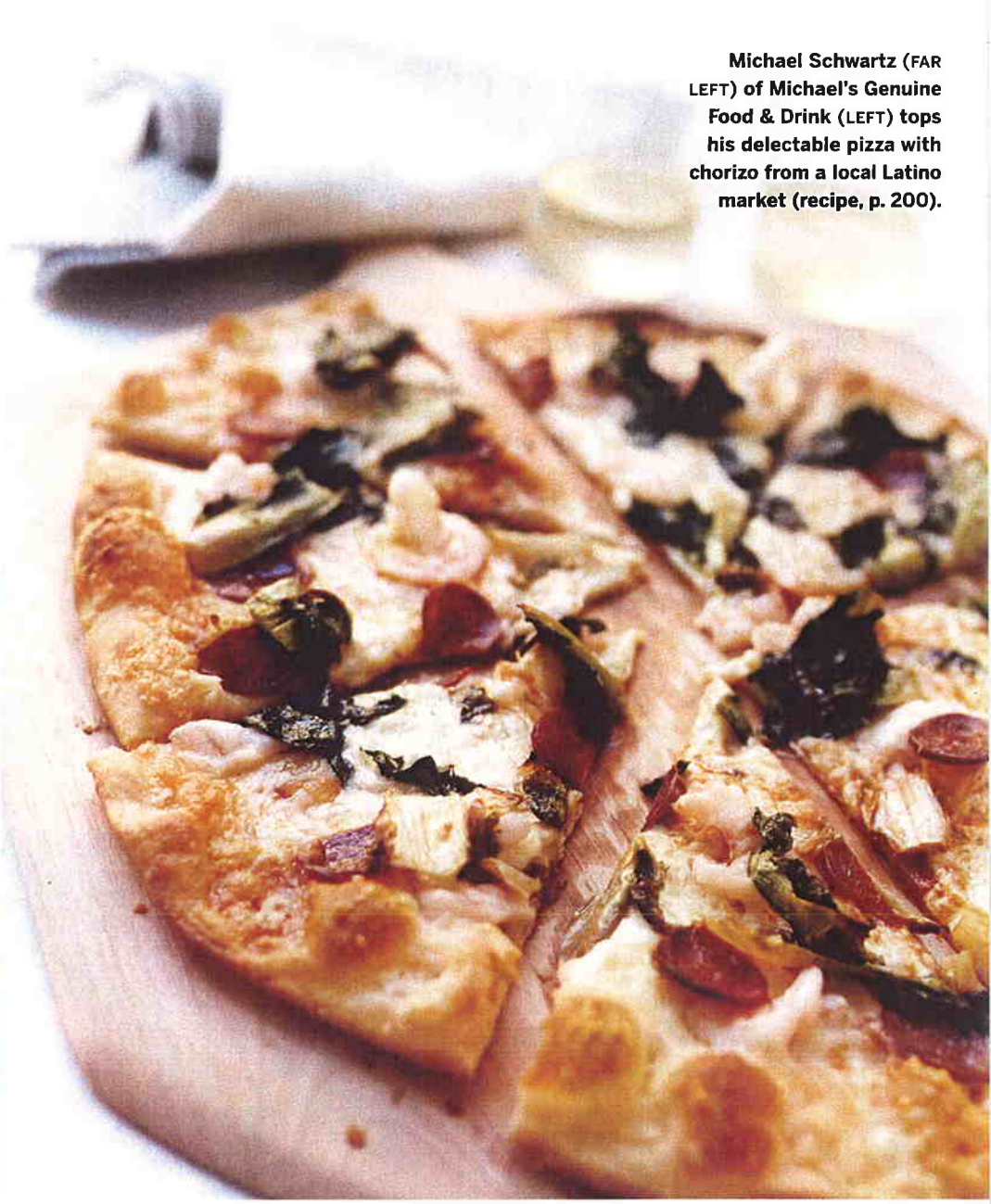


## MIAMI'S GOT

PIONEERING CHEF MICHAEL SCHWARTZ OF MICHAEL'S GENUINE AND SIMPLE, SPECTACULAR RECIPES—TO MIAMI'S GLOBALLY STORE OWNERS AND ART COLLECTORS LOVE THE MOST.

Michael Schwartz (FAR LEFT) of Michael's Genuine Food & Drink (LEFT) tops his delectable pizza with chorizo from a local Latino market (recipe, p. 200).



# GOOD TASTE

FOOD & DRINK HAS BROUGHT A LOCAVORE'S INTEGRITY—MINDED DESIGN DISTRICT. HERE, THE DISHES THE DISTRICT'S BY VICTORIA PESCE ELLIOTT PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID NICOLAS

# MIAMI'S DESIGN & ART HANGOUT

When **Michael's Genuine Food & Drink** opened last year, it wasn't just one of Miami's first excellent American bistros. It was also the first good place to eat in the Design District, home to cutting-edge home-furnishings and clothing shops and contemporary-art galleries. Chef and owner Michael Schwartz, a Philadelphia native who launched the pioneering South Beach restaurant Nemo in 1994, calls his latest spot "a chef's interpretation of a great neighborhood place." He sources superior ingredients from local producers, from the sweet Florida onions he stuffs with spiced lamb (recipe, p. 200) to the chorizo and shrimp that top his thin-crust pizza (recipe, p. 200). Dishes like these have made Michael's the de facto clubhouse for Miami's design and art intelligentsia, as well as a destination for people who never used to venture to the Design District unless they were tagging along with their decorator. "Michael's is the geographic and social epicenter of the Design District," says Daniel Kron, owner of the whimsical kids' store Genius Jones. "It's the first place we go to for business meetings, staff dinners and just for a great lunch." Art collector Rosa de la Cruz, who is building a three-story Design District space to display multimedia works, finds herself drawn to Michael's for lunch and dinner on the same day. "The District used to be a ghost town," she says. "It's still not Manhattan, but it's going in the right direction."



Three Michael's regulars: Doug Meyer (standing), Gene Meyer and Beth Arrowood of Niba Rug Collections. Exuberant colors, as in the yarns above, are central to their designs.

## DESIGN DISTRICT'S BEST



### SHOPS

- 1. Y-3** Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto merges athletic wear and high-end fashion in this debut U.S. store, a collaboration with Adidas. 150 NE 40th St.; 305-573-1603.
- 2. DRIADE** The sleek Italian design emporium has 3,500 square feet filled with housewares and furniture. Its restaurant, **Fratelli Lyon**, serves terrific salads and pizzas. 4141 NE Second Ave.; 305-572-2900. *Fratelli Lyon*, 305-572-2901.
- 3. GENIUS JONES** This eclectic store sells quirky fashion, toys and books for kids. 49 NE 39th St.; 305-571-2000.
- 4. NIBA RUG COLLECTIONS** Hand-knotted designs are inspired by Miami's tropical landscape. 30 NE 40th St.; 305-573-1355.

### RESTAURANTS

- 5. BROSIA** The Design District's best alfresco dining space offers a great Mediterranean menu. 163 NE 39th St.; 305-572-1400.
- 6. MICHAEL'S GENUINE FOOD & DRINK** Michael Schwartz's American bistro is the neighborhood go-to spot. 130 NE 40th St.; 305-573-5550.
- 7. PACIFIC TIME** Jonathan Eismann's renowned California-American restaurant recently relocated here. 35 NE 40th St.; 305-722-7369.

# MIAMI HISTORY IS MADE HERE

A hundred years ago, the Design District had the fanciful name of Buena Vista, where farmers cultivated peppers, tomatoes and citrus. By the mid-1920s, Theodore Vivian Moore, better known as the Pineapple King, had switched his efforts from growing fruit to creating a neighborhood: He launched a furniture company to serve the rich newcomers who were buying homes near the waterfront. The area had become rundown by the '80s, when the young Miami developer Craig Robins, who'd helped revive the South Beach district, saw its potential as an art and design center. In the late '90s, Knoll, the modern furniture company, became one of the District's first major design stores to open to the public. Others followed—eventually—including **Niba Rug Collections** and the Italian housewares and furniture shop **Driade**. Now the still-gentrifying district is evolving again, attracting fashion innovators like Y-3, a boutique selling Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto's athletic-wear designs with Adidas. The success of Michael's Genuine Food & Drink has also brought new restaurants to the vicinity, including the cozy Mediterranean bistro **Brosia** and the just-reopened California-American **Pacific Time**.