

## Afterhours



Social Restaurant + Wine Bar has become a popular destination on East Bay Street. It offers imaginative fare and a selection of more than 100 bottles of wine. *Photos provided*

## Socially correct

After Charleston Chefs closed a little more than a year ago, downtown's competitive restaurant row was longing for a replacement. In its place has risen Social Restaurant + Wine Bar, a thoroughly modern, hip and sexy young restaurant (though really more of a small plates and wine bar).

Though the Charleston area has a healthy crop of excellent tapas and small plate establishments — think Soif, Chaf's and Rival — Social sets its food and wine personalities apart from the pack. Social's concept is driven by owner Brad Kaufman, a career restaurateur with a penchant for

Trust. His expertise drives the 400-bottle wine list (\$20-\$1,000) with a heavy emphasis on artisanal-style wines from select importers and producers.

**Social Restaurant  
+ Wine Bar**  
188 East Bay St.  
843-577-5885

The kitchen crew, which is in full view from much of the sleek black and frosted-glass dining room, is led by New Orleans native Mark Kaufman. His resume is peppered with restaurant names like Palace Cafe, Emeril's and Charleston's own Magnolias.

Kaufman's fare is served artfully on geometric white plates. Wood-fired pizzas churn from

truffled risotto balls with tomato jam (\$5) or sliders topped with coconut onion rings, fri-quail eggs and Tillamook cheddar, served with truffled Yukon chips (\$12).

The late-night crowd that parades in some time after 10 is youthful and boisterous. In earlier, Social is much quieter and well-suited for a light bite with a hot date or a fun taste experience with a group of friends.

Wine flows freely at the bar from a 50-t Crownet system that holds 100 bottles of wine. The system prevents the wine from oxygen exposure (thus better preserving it) and also eases the pouring of the restaurant's popu-

# Luxury Living

## Personal Chefs

A solution for those who love to eat but don't have time to cook

Age is just a number

Compassionate caregiver

Deck the halls

Gift ideas for every occasion

By Susan J. Jacob

