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THIS LITTLE PIGGY TURNS 10

Illustration by TIM SHEAFFER



Is there, in the history of New York City dining, a more improbable pair than April Bloomfield and Ken Friedman? Bloomfield, from Birmingham, England, had only narrowly avoided becoming a policewoman before backing into professional kitchens as a Plan B, while Friedman, a Los Angeles native and 24-year veteran of the music industry, had no experience as a restaurateur and was in no way qualified to venture into the most demanding, fickle, merciless, and competitive

SPOTTED AT THE SPOTTED PIG:

1. Beyoncé.
2. Jay Z.
3. Ken Friedman.
4. David Chang.
5. Bill Clinton.
6. Charlie Rose.
7. April Bloomfield.
8. Kim Kardashian.
9. Kanye West.
10. Michael Stipe.
11. Mario Batali.
12. Liv Tyler.
13. Bono.
14. Julian Schnabel.
15. Chelsea Clinton.

business of feeding and liquoring New Yorkers. Who in the New York of 2004 needed a "gastro-pub" anyway? What sector of potential customers was yearning for "British" food? Who cared that Fatboy Slim, Michael Stipe, and Jay Z were on board as partners for this knuckleheaded venture called the Spotted Pig? Apparently, we did. For the past decade it's been a favorite of bold-faced New Yorkers looking for a casual, surprisingly democratic, and at all times fun and delicious hangout.

The Bloomfield-Friedman axis continues to spread: they opened the John Dory Oyster Bar and the Breslin in New York, and they refurbished the legendary Tosca Cafe in San Francisco. The duo has found and replicated that rare and delicate balance, that intangible... something that makes a restaurant or a bar intensely desirable yet also, always, fun.

—ANTHONY BOURDAIN