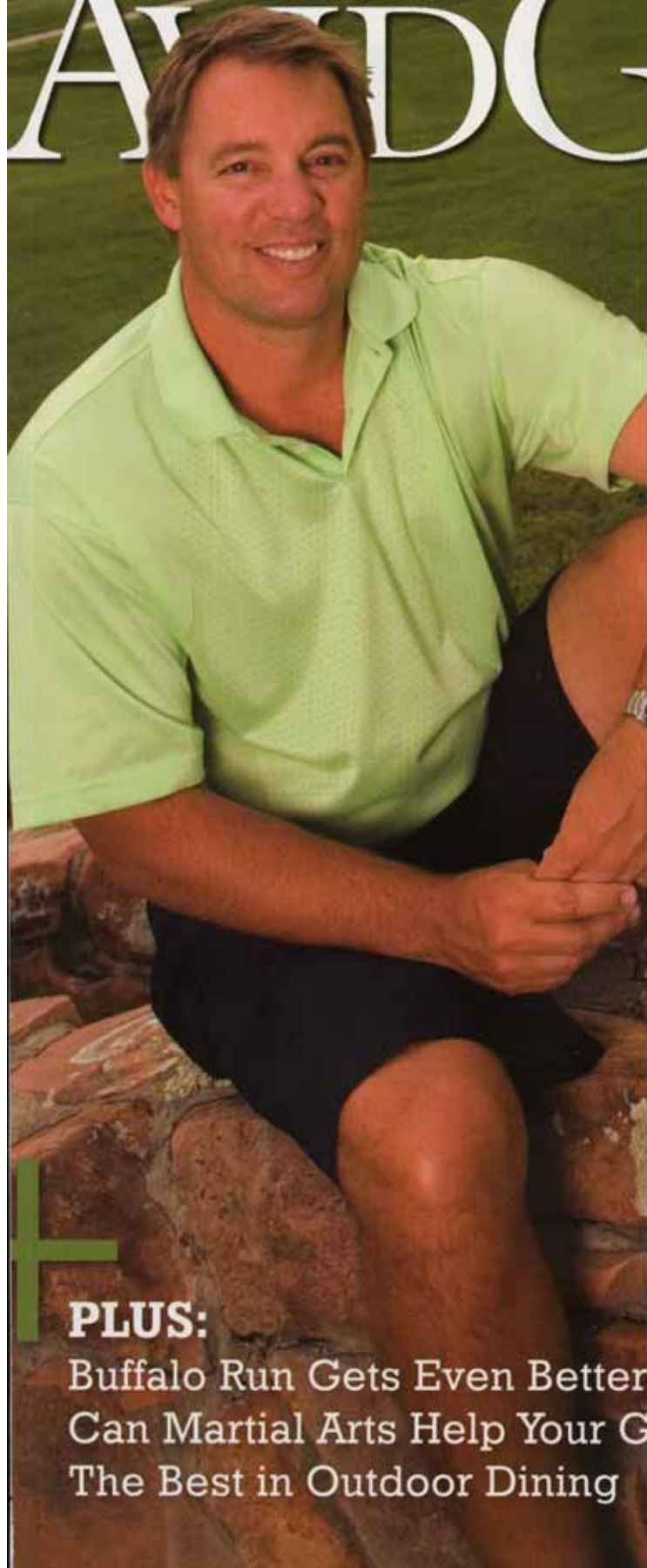




COLORADO AFTERGLOW



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PATIO OF LIGHTS: Bistro Vendôme's authentic, impeccable Gallic fare, served en plein air, transports you to the 1st arrondissement and the romantic rues of Paris.

Bistro Vendôme

Jennifer Jasinski's French bistro for beautiful habitués hasn't been around long enough to qualify for classic cult status, but judging from the cosmopolitan crowds jostling for table space on the serene outdoor patio, it's a restaurant well on its way. Inside, Parisian touches abound: tiled Art Deco floors, servers donning traditional white aprons, and Dijon mustard-hued walls framed with opulent mirrors. It's a lovely room, to be sure, but the delightful courtyard patio, un petit jardin festooned with splashy flowers and shady trees, is easily one of the city's best romantic retreats. Lucky for us, Jasinski's deluxe French food is just as captivating. The steak au poivre with pommes frites screams Vive la France!, while the crêpes Vendôme, bulging with fresh herbs, roasted chicken and Roma tomatoes, are bolstered by a fried egg and sauce béarnaise. Weekend brunch on the patio is a sensational summer pastime. 1420 Larimer St.; 303-825-3232 or bistrovendome.com.