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BEST OF
DENVER

2007

Best Brunch

Bistro Vendôme

1420 Larimer St.
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When the crew from Rioja took over Bistro Vendôme last year, fans wondered what would happen to the classically French menu. Sure, the restaurant would continue to occupy one of the choicest bits of hidden real estate in the city — with a stunning patio for warm-weather meals — but Rioja's contemporary Mediterranean/Spanish/Italian food didn't seem to fit with Vendôme's unabashed Frog worship. And then the transition went better than anyone expected — anyone except, perhaps, then-chef Jennifer Jasinski and manager Beth Gruitch, the now doubly dynamic duo. The new white-jackets made a few subtle changes to the dinner menu, but it was their renewed focus on brunch — that most abused of meals — that really paid off, with a smart morning cocktail menu and delicious dishes ranging from crêpes to delicate seafood presentations. As a result, Bistro Vendôme is now the best place in town for a midday meal on Saturdays and Sundays. If you can find a seat, that is.

Readers' choice: Dazzle