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## Food Awards 2012

Dig in to this year's top food!

EDITED BY ETHAN FLETCHER

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### Hot Chefs



By Adam Cruft

**Steve Jaramillo**  
*Metro, Lafayette*  
**What Inspires You?**  
*Books*

Steve Jaramillo never wanted to be a chef growing up.  
"I wanted to be a writer, originally."

But with few job prospects—and limited success after publishing three novels in the late '90s—he found refuge in Berkeley kitchens. Jaramillo soon discovered that he had a knack for cooking, landing a gig as top chef at Lalime's. He also found he enjoyed it.

"Being a chef is similarly dynamic and creative [to writing]. I have like 200 cookbooks that I love to leaf through and conceptualize different dishes."

Now at Metro, he emphasizes, in true Berkeley fashion, dishes using just a few high-quality ingredients.

So, are his writing days over? Well, Jaramillo is actually halfway through a new novel—this one set in a restaurant.

3524 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, (925) 284-4422, [metrolafayette.com](http://metrolafayette.com).

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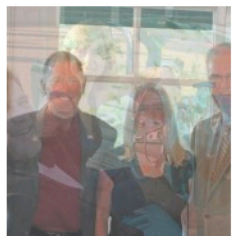


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