

DINING OUT

Gourmet food in formal -- but not stuffy -- setting

The menu at Global reflects owners' travels and passion for food

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Dining Out is also published on Thursdays. See past columns at www.southneighbors.com.

Chef Bernard Brunet talks about food with such passion that you'd think he hadn't eaten in days.

Brunet and his wife, Shannon, opened **Global Restaurant** in June 2006. The menu features dishes inspired by their world travels. Examples include the Tahitian shrimp with papaya sauce, Bombay fried oysters, and lamb and beef with Middle Eastern spices.

He's from Nice, France, and has worked in restaurants in Paris, England and Russia. She's a Southern girl who traveled extensively while working for a cruise line (that's how they met). She also recently completed sommelier training.

They live in Lake Park, which is just across the S.C. line. Their first child, Xavier, is 3 weeks old.

While the Brunets are definitely gourmards, they shoo away any air of pretension. Their goal is to offer fine cuisine affordably, in a business casual environment. Translation: It's white table cloth dining without being stuffy.

The restaurant is small, with just over 50 seats, and that's intentional, Brunet says. The size allows them to give better service and be consistent with a staff of just three chefs.

"We say you eat 50 percent with your eyes, and we try to give our guests a feast in presentation as well as taste," he says.

They've recently added a fixed-price special to the menu to make the internationally inspired cuisine more accessible to the public. The \$79 package allows two diners to enjoy a full dinner with a bottle of wine Monday through Thursday nights. (The menu varies.)

Best-selling entrees are the duck, lamb, tuna and escolar, the latter being a south Pacific fish similar to Chilean sea bass.

Global is hosting a New Year's Eve party featuring a six-course dinner for \$69 per person. The main-course choices are pork loin or surf and turf with beef tenderloins, diver scallops, crab cakes and shrimp.

Global is at 3520 Toringdon Way, in the office park behind Earth Fare off Johnston Road. Details and reservations: 704-248-0866 or www.global-restaurant.com.