



Wines down South

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LIVINGSTON RESTAURANT-LUNCH & GLAMOUR

By Doc Lawrence



Just across Peachtree Street

from the historic Fabulous Fox Theatre is the equally historic Georgian Terrace Hotel, home of Chef Gary Mennie's Livingston Restaurant, a Midtown gourmet center with a lunch and dinner menu radiating all the vision of the renaissance section of Atlanta's burgeoning restaurant scene.

Joined by my distinguished colleague, journalist Emily Foley, now a denizen of beautiful Newnan Georgia and Mary Claire Keene of Watkinsville and a member of PR legend Liz Lapidus' Atlanta team, we ordered a variety of items from the lunch menu, which almost by definition these days will be smaller portions at reasonable prices.



Relaxing on the marble stairs of Livingston Restaurant, Atlanta PR executive Mary Claire Keane, shown on the left, enjoys a glass of Viognier with journalist Emily Foley just before lunch. Livingston, located in the historic Georgian Terrace Hotel, is the official restaurant of the Fox Theatre located across the street.

The chopped vegetable salad and was served along with an unforgettable mushroom soup and a cleansing glass of Viognier became an aperitif, living up to expectations as an appetite enhancer. With palates now emboldened (after all, it was Friday), out came beef short ribs, chicken salad sandwiches and peekytoe crab fritters. We divided a crispy shrimp "po-boy" a Southern staple with New Orleans roots and kept everything in the realm of white wine, opting for the always refreshing Albarino, a Spanish miracle that need to be on more restaurant wine lists.

Wines rank up there with service and ambience, and here, Livingston has few peers in the region. Atlanta is a remarkably international region and this wine list parallels the

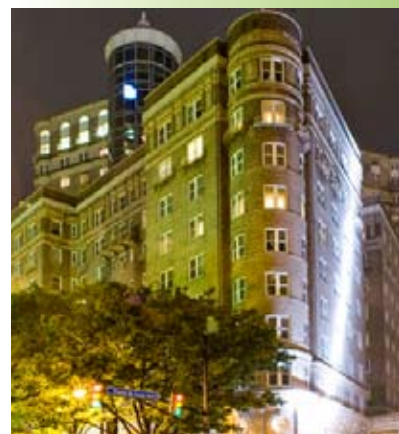
permanent population and droves of visitors. It encompasses all the major wine regions of the planet while embracing the cuisine of the South and the abundance of local grown products.

After bites of chocolate praline covered in hazelnuts accompanied by house roasted coffee, it was time to return home. Comfortably satisfied and laughing a little, we were so proud that we just dined in the very room where so long ago the star cast of *Gone With The Wind*, Vivien Leigh,

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COURTESY OF LIVINGSTON RESTAURANT



COURTESY OF GEORGIAN TERRACE HOTEL

Clark Gable, Olivia deHavilland and Leslie Howard dined during the world premiere of the beloved movie.

Livingston is well-beyond the prevailing dining out trends and with a chef of Mennie's caliber (Canoe and Taurus are previous gourmet venues), the restaurant only goes upward in acclaim and popularity. It inhabits one of the city's few historic buildings, an inviting modern space without obscuring its original glamour.

Chef Mennie offers up the lively local flavors with bold American cooking that's savory, sexy and innovative. He insists on flavor and ingenuity. "You pay homage to a local turnip only when the taste is made exciting," he says.

The afternoon was close to rush hour traffic. Our response was swift and very Southern: "fiddley dee!"

Livingston is located in the Georgian Terrace Hotel and is the official restaurant of the Fox Theatre.

www.livingstonatlanta.com.



COURTESY OF LIVINGSTON RESTAURANT



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