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**“Essential Eats – The 25 Most Important Restaurants In Atlanta”**

**By: Kristen Palladino**

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## ***Essential eats***

### ***The 25 most important restaurants in Atlanta***

By Kirsten Palladino

Every year, we compile a list of the best restaurants or chefs in a different category for our big Essential Eats issue. I've had the pleasure of culling that list for the past four. For 2010, we wanted to hone in on which restaurants are worth their salt, are making a real impact on the community and outshine their competitors on a busy Friday night. The criteria? Well, it's certainly not just the fancy restaurants, though there are plenty on the list. We didn't include any chains whatsoever (and yes, two of one restaurant constitutes a chain for our purposes). What went into this list beyond a lot of dining out, sweat, tears and love was consideration of you, dear reader. Where do we know you'll have a lovely experience with service, cuisine, decor and memories? This list, in the simplest of explanations, is about what we think defines eating in this great big melting pot of a city we're proud to call our home.

#### **LIVINGSTON**

Part of the appeal of Livingston (named for Atlanta's mayor at the turn of the century, who used to live in the space that the Georgia Terrace and Livingston now occupies) is that it's directly across from the Fox Theatre, reviving our ability to have a genuine dinner-and-a-show type night without ever having to move our car. In addition, however, are the luxurious French modern décor and expert New South culinary devices that Executive Chef Zeb Stevenson honors and celebrates. 659 Peachtree St. NE. 404-897-5000. [www.livingstonatlanta.com](http://www.livingstonatlanta.com).