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RITTENHOUSE RESTAURANT IS TOPS

Lacroix, the three-meal food and beverage outlet in The Rittenhouse in Philadelphia, is the Restaurant of the Year, according to the current issue of *Esquire* magazine. The 110-seat restaurant took top honors in the publication's 22nd annual survey of culinary excellence in the U.S. *Esquire* Food Editor John Mariani made the selection and wrote the article.

Under the direction of Chef Jean-Marie Lacroix, the restaurant serves innovative contemporary cuisine with an emphasis on fresh regional and seasonal ingredients. The outlet serves breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as Sunday brunch and afternoon tea in an adjacent lounge. Other features are a private dining room and a chef's table.

Chef Lacroix has been part of the Philadelphia culinary scene for two decades. He's a past winner of the Robert Mondavi Award for Culinary Excellence and the James Beard Award.