

POWER TABLES

WHERE THE BUSINESS ELITE ARE EATING

Lacroix, Philadelphia

LACROIX IS a five-year-old restaurant located on the ground floor of Philadelphia's social epicenter, the Rittenhouse Hotel. Giant two-story windows that run the length of the dining room look out onto the gardens, trendy shops, and luxury apartments of Rittenhouse Square, the most expensive neighborhood in the city. The restaurant, which serves international cuisine, is open from 6 a.m. to midnight, so it attracts plenty of early-bird A-listers from both the corporate and academic worlds.

—*Jessie Knadler*

RECENT SIGHTINGS

Actress **Joan Collins** ate a healthy salad at table 6. **Mark Wahlberg** had breakfast at table 5. **Charles Dutoit**, chief conductor and artistic adviser of the Philadelphia Orchestra, came in for Sunday brunch at table 6. Drexel University President **Constantine Papadakis** ordered oatmeal and berries for breakfast at table 6. Comcast founder **Ralph Roberts** and his wife, philanthropist **Suzanne Roberts**, sat at the chef's table in the kitchen for an eight-course meal.



THE REGULARS



There's always a hot tea waiting for Temple University President **Ann Weaver Hart** when she shows up for an early-morning breakfast up to four times a week. She sits at table 1.



New Jersey Nets co-owner **Lewis Katz** shows up early for lunch meetings with top political or sports figures. He has been known to sit at table 5.



Michael Fitts, dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, comes for breakfast or lunch up to three times a month. He can be found at table 8.



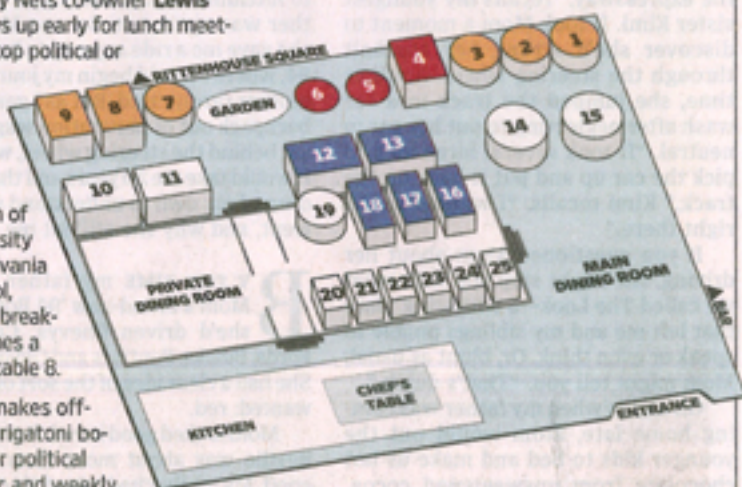
The chef makes off-the-menu rigatoni bolognese for political fund-raiser and weekly guest **David Girard-di-Carlo**, chairman of the law firm Blank Rome. He likes table 20.



The restaurant always reserves table 4 for Pennsylvania State Sen. **Michael Stack**, who stops in twice a week when the Senate is not in session.

THE POWER TABLES

All the tables flanking the windows overlooking Rittenhouse Square get top billing, but tables 4-6 are the most sought-after because of their unobstructed views. Diners more interested in the goings-on inside the restaurant prefer sitting on the raised platform at tables 16-19.



Lacroix, 210 W. Rittenhouse Sq., Philadelphia; 215-546-9000; www.lacroixrestaurant.com