



RESTAURANTS

Azuma

Great Outdoors

These new restaurants and lounges include scenic settings for outdoor events.

Lakefront Patio Local sushi and Japanese robata bar mini-chain **Azuma** opened a 9,200-square-foot outpost in Sugar Land's new Lake Pointe development in June. Azuma on the Lake includes a lakeside patio that seats 65, with seating for 100 more on the first floor (at a sushi bar, tables, and two party booths) and 90 in the second-floor dining room. (15830 Southwest Fwy., Sugar Land, 281.313.0518, azumarestaurant.com)



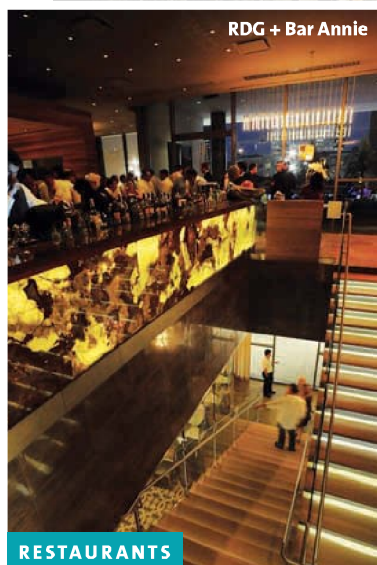
Byrd's Market and Café

Rooftop Terrace Multi-level restaurant, gourmet market, and event space **Byrd's Market and Café** opened downtown in December 2009. The venue accommodates 50 guests on the rooftop, while the main dining room holds 150 and a separate 50-person space is used alternately as an art gallery and conference room. (420 Main St., 713.225.0100, byrdsmarket.com)

Outdoor Lounge In December 2009, **Belvedere** nightclub in the Uptown Park neighborhood completed a renovation that added a new patio lounge with space for 150. Inside, the all-white private party room holds 50, and the main club area—newly outfitted with terrazzo floors, a flat-panel television wall, and banquettes—holds 350. (1131-01 Uptown Park Blvd., 713.426.5840, belvedereinfo.com)



Ill Forks Prime Steakhouse



RDG + Bar Annie

RESTAURANTS

Private Parties

Houston's high-end restaurant scene continues to boom, with plenty of room for groups. Here's where to plan...

A Screening for 40 In October 2009, **Ill Forks Prime Steakhouse** opened inside downtown's Houston Pavilions. Four private dining rooms seat 10 to 60 guests; the 40-seat Bayou room includes a 113-inch drop-down screen and HD projector. Additionally, either of the two main dining rooms can be reserved for as many as 80 or 125. (1201 Fannin St., 713.658.9457, iiforks.com)

Cocktails for 25 In May, **51fifteen Restaurant and Lounge** opened adjacent to Saks Fifth Avenue at the Galleria. Decor

highlights include a color palette of gold, white, silver and gray accented by a massive LED sculpture wall of white roses. The restaurant serves a Latin-French fusion menu and seats 26 in the lounge, 21 in the bar area, and 60 in the dining area. (5115 Westheimer Road, 713.963.8067)

A Sit-Down Meal for 64 **RDG + Bar Annie** opened in Uptown's Boulevard Place development in July 2009, serving inventive fare like corn-husk roasted scallops with bacon, grits, and eggs. Bar Annie seats 68 while the

RDG Grill Room seats 120 in its main dining room. Two private dining rooms seat 32 and can be combined; a semiprivate room seats 12. (1800 Post Oak Blvd., 713.840.1111, rdgbarannie.com)

A French Dinner for 16 Also set in Boulevard Place, chef Philippe Schmit of Bistro Modern was scheduled to debut upscale French eatery **Philippe Restaurant + Lounge** in January 2011. A first-floor lounge seats as many as 85 and the second-floor dining room seats 180, including two private rooms that seat 60 and 16, with a chef's table concept served in the smaller room. The restaurant is also available for full buyout. (1800 Post Oak Blvd., 713.439.1000, philippehouston.com)