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Calendar

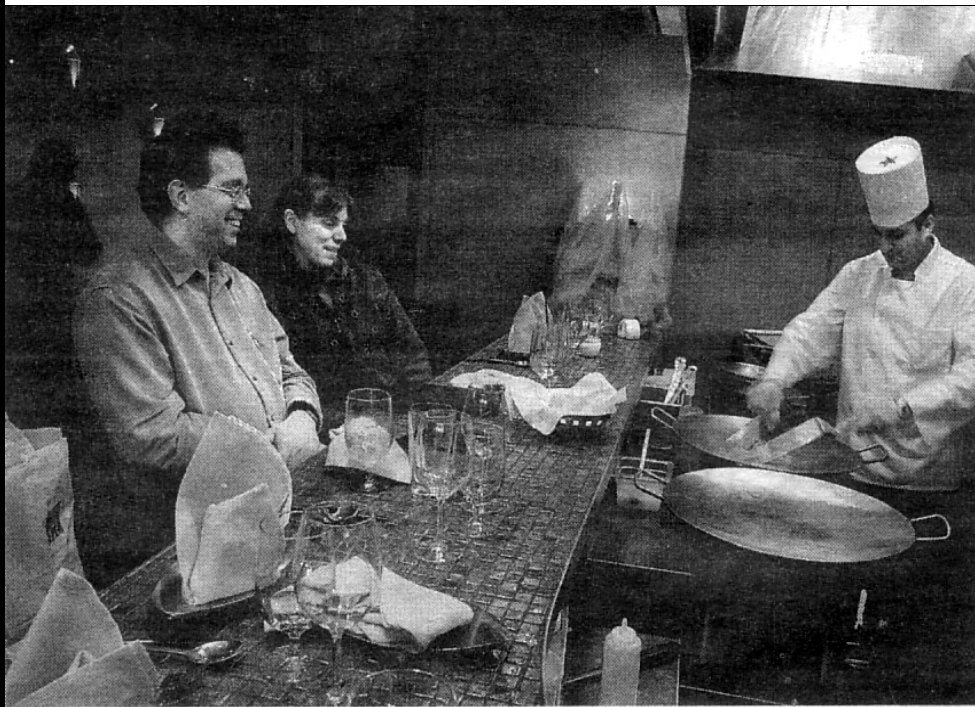
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The Spice Bar Masala Art, 990 Great Plain Ave., Needham. 781-449-4050.

We've had the wine bar, the oxygen bar, the pasta bar, and now we've got the spice bar. But this is not a hang-out, a gimmick, or dinner-to-go spot. The Spice Bar at Masala Art, a brand-new Indian restaurant in Needham,

is a combination of tableside cooking with flair (a la Caesar salads or anything flambeed) and a chef's table in a restaurant kitchen. However, it actually is a bar that you sit at which your dinner will be prepared. Iridescent peacock-colored tiles form the counter in front of two tivas (Indian cooking pans) and several burners. Part cooking demo, part educational insight into the benefits and uses of spices, this tasting menu is a unique presentation by chef Soni Sunil - one that will take you on a journey through Indian cuisine and the art of blending spices. Reservations are a must.

- RACHEL TRAVERS



Top: The Indian God Ganesha watches over the spice bar at Masala Art in Needham, where Sunil Soni cooks up some mint chicken (above)