

Texas Living: People & Places
A BONUS SECTION FOR OUR TEXAS READERS

Southern Living

SPECIAL SECTION

AUGUST 2000

60 Pages of
Idea Houses

The ABC's
Of Gardening
With Children

Try Breakfast
For Supper

Ribbons Inspire
Personal Style

Hidden Charms
Of a Creole
Courtyard

Ferns That
Won't Burn

4.95 USA \$6.50 CAN

\$4.95US \$6.50CAN



0162-9826(200008)08

southernliving.com



the brothers RATHBUN

Kent (left) and Kevin (right) Rathbun share a passion for making good food that keeps their restaurants on the short list of the South's best places to eat. Award-winning chefs/restaurateurs, they are bright stars on the culinary horizon. In their separate kitchens in Atlanta and Dallas, the talented brothers are serious, no-nonsense perfectionists. But when together, they act like kids. They play with their food during constant good-natured teasing, spirited comparisons, and uncontrollable laughter.

As a partner with Pano Karatassos, Kevin's creative menus make Nava and Blue Pointe two of Atlanta's hottest restaurants. Kent works his delicious magic at Abacus in Dallas. These men can prepare anything. But when they go home to Kansas City, Missouri, they want their mom's home cooking—fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and corn on the cob. The two giants in the business are still mom's baby boys.

At Abacus, dinner with the brothers excited all our senses. Scrumptious food, accompanied by their wonderful stories, gave us a peek into the hearts of this talented duo.

They recognized early their love affair with food. Their friends often wondered what was up with those Rathbun boys. On Boy Scout camping trips, hot dogs-on-a-stick were expected, but the brothers lured campers with rib-eye steaks and skillet potatoes.

Kent and Kevin have always known good food. Their mother, Pat, was manager of a fine dining restaurant for years. At home, Sunday dinners were major productions. "Our parents were serious about grooming us for a good life," says Kevin. "To them, important parts of what we needed to be successful were excellent manners and broad food knowledge. We both had to set a perfect table. Mom checked everything."

"I'm so proud of them, I've popped all my buttons," says Pat. "Kevin is my comedian. I always told him he could make money in stand-up comedy if he wanted to change careers." Recently she had the opportunity to see both her boys in action during a chefs' tour in Kansas City. "I'd never seen Kent do a show before. Wow, he was jam up. I didn't know how *really good* they are."

Their mom is right. Kent and Kevin are really good. If you can't get to one of their restaurants, have a taste of their food with these recipes. They're jam up.

BY ANDRIA SCOTT HURST / PHOTOGRAPHY CHARLES WALTON IV
STYLING BUFFY HARGETT



