

The Press Democrat

Mouthful: Fun foodie happenings around Sonoma County

By Michele Anna Jordan, The Press Democrat

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Happy Anniversary, John Ash & Co: Thirty-five years ago, John Ash & Co., a restaurant and retail wine shop, opened in Montgomery Village, with John Ash at the helm in the kitchen and winemaker and pinot noir wizard Don Baumhefner in the store. It was, for several years, the best restaurant in Sonoma County.

The restaurant relocated to Vintners Inn in about 1987, a move that launched its national reputation and helped put Sonoma County on the country's culinary map.

John Ash left daily duties at the restaurant in the 1990s. In 2000, Don and Rhonda Carano of Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery purchased the inn and restaurant. Currently, executive chef Tom Schmidt heads up the culinary team.

In honor of the anniversary, there will be a special three-course prix fixe tasting menu offered from August 10 through 15 for \$35. Highlights of the menu include lobster, corn and mushroom risotto and venison loin with blackberry sage sauce.

For reservations, call 527-7687 or visit vintnersinn.com.

John Ash & Co. is at 4350 Barnes Road, Santa Rosa.

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