

Ballaro hosts 19-year-old Chicago dining club

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The first course, an asparagus salad with Parmigiano Reggiano dressing.

As one of the few, older dining clubs that's still around the Chicago area, Chicago Gourmets is celebrating its 19th anniversary this year with nearly 1,000 restaurants visited under their belts since 1997. The group most recently visited Ballaro, Highwood's four-month-old, contemporary Italian restaurant.



Members raise a glass along with founder Don Newcomb (back left), of Oak Park.



Ballaro restaurant co-owner and chef Mark Newman, of Highland Park, holding his new cookbook on March 23.

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