

# Now open

A peek at the newest food or drink venues



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL ZOELLER/STAFF

Server Catherine Mobley brings food out at Magnolias in Charleston. Magnolias just completed a six-week renovation and opened its doors on Valentine's Day.

## Magnolias

It took nearly 25 years for Magnolias to shore up its reputation as one of the still-relevant forerunners of Charleston's contemporary dining scene, and six weeks for the downtown restaurant to shake off decor elements that could make it look dated.

The restaurant last month reopened after a renovation that included the implementation of a new color scheme, the installation of new lighting fixtures and a "retouching" of the bar and host areas. "As the menu evolves with time, it is important to us to also adjust the design and atmosphere," owner T.J. Parsell was quoted as saying in a release announcing the changes.

When The New York Times' Brian Miller paid Magnolias a review visit in 1995, he wrote, "Magnolias looks like a smart bar and grill on Columbus Avenue in Manhattan — done in black and white, with soft track lighting." Now the dominant design elements are warm wood tones and chairs upholstered in baby blue.

Magnolias is at 185 East Bay St. For more information, call 577-7771.

—Hanna Raskin



Customers are surrounded by an antique-mirrored wall and new sconces at Magnolias.



Glasses hang from the new cabinets installed above the bar.



### Gallery

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