



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER EVANS



Boston's culinary scene received another accolade from the national eye as Towne Stove and Spirits celebrated its award last night from Esquire magazine as one of the best new restaurants in America.

"It means more than you'll ever know," said Lydia Shire, culinary director at Towne and a Herald Fork Lift blogger. "John (Mariani, the restaurant critic for Esquire) has a certain standard in his mind for a restaurant, and it's made me want to perform every day."

Noshing on one of Shire's signature lamb chops, Mariani spoke about Towne's formidable entry into Boston's — and the country's — food scene. "As soon as I sat down and had a lobster popover, I said, 'Say no more,'" Mariani said.

The restaurant was all aglow with the national recognition. "It's a little edgy and a little out there, but Boston needed a place like that. There's something for everyone here," said Todd Dagues of Boston.

— SARAH GAYNES

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# The talk of the Towne

Lydia Shire's hot spot gets nod from Esquire



(1) Joe Hassell of Weston and Nicole Grzesik of Boston attend the Esquire magazine party at Towne Stove and Spirits last night. (2) John Mariani, Esquire's restaurant critic, celebrates with Lydia Shire, the culinary director at Towne.



See more photos from last night's event at [bostonherald.com](http://bostonherald.com).



(3) Edwina Kluender, left, and Melissa Ostrow of Boston at the Esquire magazine soiree honoring Towne as one of the country's best new restaurants. (4) Richman Frank and Jennifer Athas. (5) Max Buccini, left, of Boston's W Hotel and Joe Gardner. (6) Jessica and Jason Henrichs of Boston.