Eager patrons descend for 12 tastemakers' best

By RICHARD L. ELDREDGE | Thursday, October 12, 2006, 03:00 AM

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"Culinaire," the chef-stuffed Taste of Atlanta opening night party at Atlantic Station's Twelve Hotel, proved to be one-stop shopping for the scoop Tuesday night. Twelve of Atlanta's top chefs were assembled around the hotel's ballroom, offering samples of signature dishes from their eateries at the preview event for this weekend's food festivities.

First up, we chatted with Rathbun's and Krog Bar owner **Kevin Rathbun** as he and his assistants served up Chinese takeout boxes filled with Thai squid salad. As he preps Kevin Rathbun Steak, his upcoming third Inman Park eatery on Krog Street, the chef told of his recent field trip to City Hall to apply for various licenses.

"I asked what we could do about changing the name of the street from Krog to Rathbun," he cracked. "I was told, 'Kevin, that's never gonna happen!' It never hurts to ask, though."