

The BEST NEW RESTAURANTS in America BY JEFF GORDINIER

Esquire

WINTER '20

... THE **Best New Restaurants 2019** ...

No.

13

Virtue

CHICAGO

●●● I'm bound to love any restaurant that has a dessert called "we finally got a piece of the pie." (And if you don't get the reference, or the extra layer of meaning behind it, I'm not going to explain it to you here.) The entire menu at Virtue is like a spread at a family reunion piled high with dishes that inspire such love. Moist cornbread cradling a pat of butter the size of a bar of soap. Shrimp blanketed in rémoulade on a crunchy bed of fried green tomatoes. Velvety mac and cheese (below). But chef Erick Williams reveals his virtuosity with lighter dishes, like a plate of broccoli, garlanded with pecans and chunks of cheese, that is guaranteed to become a favorite at any Thanksgiving table where it happens to show up.



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BY MATT GALLAGHER

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