



## The Best New Restaurants of 2005

Culinary kudos: the best of the new restaurants.

November 2005

By John Mariani

### **Latil's Landing, Darrow, LA**

The ravages of Hurricane Katrina make the prospect of Gulf Coast restaurants coming back to life soon sadly uncertain. Miraculously, though hit by the storm, Latil's Landing was closed for only three days.

Located fifty miles from New Orleans along the Mississippi through the Louisiana bayous, Latil's is housed within a restored 1770 Houmas House mansion, which entrepreneur Kevin Kelly has brought back from decrepitude with museum-quality antiques, glorious gardens, and a three-thousand-bottle wine collection stored in the old water cisterns. But his savviest move was hiring twenty-six-year-old Baton Rouge-born Jeremy Langlois as the chef.

Langlois's cooking is drenched in southern tradition. Shrimp are battered in Dixie beer and served on irresistible cheddar-cheese grits with andouille cream. He marinates rack of American lamb in Community-brand coffee and pairs it with creamed potatoes laced with caramelized shallots and a merlot reduction. Beneath a pink breast of duck you'll find candied yams drizzled with praline-pecan sauce. Finish with a mint-julep custard and, of course, a snifter of bourbon. *Houmas House, 40136 Highway 942; 225-473-9380; [houmashouse.com](http://houmashouse.com).*