Chef Ryan Alabaugh of Sergios in University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio presents

Poached Mission Figs with Arugula, Point Reyes Bleu, Toasted Pine Nuts and Balsamic Glaze paired with Michael Pozzan 2004 Special Reserve Merlot

INGREDIENTS:

6 Figs

½ lb. Arugula

½ lb. or less Point Reyes Bleu Cheese

2 cups toasted pin nuts

(sheet tray, oven 350 degrees 10 min)

1 qt. Balsamic vinegar

1 qt. Cheap Red Wine

½ cup red wine vinegar

½ cup sugar

1 drop vanilla extract

4 cloves

½ cinnamon stick

kosher salt

virgin olive oil

cracked pepper

TO PREPARE FIGS:

Take small or medium saucepan with lid. Cover figs with red wine, red wine vinegar, vanilla, clove, and cinnamon. Add 1/8 cup sugar and bring to 155 degrees. Hold at this temperature for 15-20 minutes. Chill before serving

TO PREPARE GLAZE:

Bring to a boil balsamic and remaining sugar reducing until coating a spoon. Cool before serving (hint: you can always add fig poaching liquid to this)

TO PREPARE GREENS:

Lightly moisten with olive oil and lightly sprinkle salt and pepper

TO PREPARE SALAD:

Place dressed arugula on plate of choice. Take one fig slice, in quarters and place on either side of arugula. Sprinkle pine nuts. Crumble bleu cheese. Drizzle with balsamic Serves 6