

What with the smoking ban, traffic, and ugly drunk people, to those in the know, the new going out is staying in. You can avoid the hoi polloi in considerable style by hiring Orono's favorite son. Chef Ted Hallson, whose presence is de rigueur at all west side society events, including birthdays. anniversaries, bat mitzvahs, and croquet parties. He made his bones at Chicago's legendary Trio before starting his private catering business. Depending on the customized menu (consultation takes into account the occasion, the room, et cetera), prices average around \$130 per person. He doesn't provide alcohol, but that's what wine cellars are for! 763-525-1700, cheftedmn.com