



Executive Chef Andrew Meek Sbrocco Restaurant & Wine Bar

In September of 2000, Chef Andrew Meek moved to Des Moines from the sunny and warm climate of Savannah, Georgia to open Sage, the restaurant. Having worked in such great restaurant towns as Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, Denver, Savannah and South Florida he decided to bring his craft back to the Midwest where he had been born. Having worked in the restaurant business for over 30 years, Chef Meek had the opportunity to work under such chefs as Greg Gammage, Patrick Robertson, Tom Condron, Bob Carter and French Master Chef Rene Bajeux. Having worked with such talented people in such accomplished towns, Chef Meek felt it was a good time to open his own fine dining restaurant.

Sage, the restaurant was a great success for local patrons and the business traveler as well. Many people couldn't believe that they could "find this caliber of food in Iowa!" Chef Meek (and Sage) gained critical acclaim by being named one of the "Top 100 Farm to Table Restaurants" by *Gourmet Magazine* and Chef Meek was twice nominated for The James Beard Foundation's "Best of the Midwest."

As Chef Meek's attention was torn between raising a family and working incredibly long hours as a Chef/Owner, Chef Meek decided to sell the assets of Sage Restaurant in May of 2009, intending to spend more time with his family. With that change, Chef Meek was hired as the Executive Chef of Sbrocco Restaurant & Wine Bar in downtown Des Moines. Chef Meek's entire staff made the move to downtown. The buzz was on the streets of Des Moines and the change brought "foodies" of all local zip codes to downtown to see the new spot and enjoy the food that they had loved from Chef Meek.

Being touted as "the bellwether" of the Local Food scene in Des Moines, Chef Meek continues to grow relationships with local farmers that bring him everything from wild asparagus to grass-fed veal. With the increased exposure that being downtown affords Chef Meek, increased awareness of the importance of locally produced foods should come naturally. After all, Sbrocco Restaurant & Wine Bar's front doors open directly into the center of Des Moines Downtown Farmer's Market May through October!

