

INTRODUCTION

At our house in Bellevue's Enatai neighborhood, the word *dinner* is synonymous with good food, deep conversations and enchanting guests. But most of all, the Isensee table is one of fellowship – a gathering from all walks of life who join in sharing the meal and stories of the day (often extracted by inquisitive parents).

The tradition of coming together around the table every evening has been part of our family since Alisha and Tayla were old enough to sit in high chairs, but it goes back further than that. Pete and Kristi's first guests were hosted at a card table in a sparsely furnished apartment. Now at Café Enatai the atmosphere may have surpassed those humble beginnings, but the significance remains the same. Any guest who comes through the door receives a full tour and a gourmet meal. Co-workers, family members, grocery store checkers, the local bank teller, the fellow bus rider – all have been invited to share a meal with us.

The culinary arts are a prized and necessary skill at our house. Each of us prepares dinner at least once a week, leading to a wide variety of menus and cooking styles. Both traditional classics and experimental dishes appear regularly.

As a taste of Isensee hospitality, we've chosen some beloved favorites and modern originals for this book.

From all of us at Café Enatai, **Bon Appétit!**

With love,

Pete, Kristi, Alisha and Tayla Isensee