

Ask Gael

My tween daughter is Britney-struck.

I knew there must be a raison d'être for **Nyla**, with its wondrous iridescent swirls of girlish boudoir taffeta. The diva-in-chief stops by now and then (they say) to see what's cooking in her soaring midtown cantina. Meanwhile, your adoring bud can groove on the soundtrack, and you won't be insulted by the food in its refreshing rehab under the new chef, Brad Gates, a Union Square Cafe veteran. He bows to "normal-people food" like moist roasted chicken and braised short ribs, and gives a New York twist to classics from Spears's New Orleans heritage, like his delicious smoked-duck-sausage-and-crawfish gumbo and the scallops in a lobster jambalaya — all stylishly plated in Villeroy & Boch. At lunch, the staff is friendly but still pea-green, dropping off soup without a spoon, chicken without a knife, and ice in a dirty glass. Is that a manager or a battery-driven bunny, ignoring our signals for help? C'mon, guys, give Britney and Brad a chance.



Nyla

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