

Community Table

The mixed-bag of Aspen had a once-in-Arden hallmark. Here's our fantasy guest list to restart the trend. —SMF



Folks who don't know **SUSIE JIMENEZ's** name soon will: She's one of 15 teen chefs who will try to please the palates of judges Gladie De Laurentis and Bobby Flay on this season's *Food Network Star* (debuting June 5). When not strutting her knife skills on reality television, the Carbondale-based Jimenez runs Spice It Up, a catering company that specializes in creating flavor full Latin meals for people with dietary restrictions.

In his twelve years as music director of the Aspen Music Festival and School, **DAVID ZINMAN** mentored scores of classical music's future stars and conducted the festival's orchestras to easily as many standing ovations—which made the acrimonious bombast of his departure last year all the more unexpected. We'd love to hear where the past year has taken him. No word if he's cooled down enough to accept the invitation, though.

Having a psychic at the table is always a hoot, and the Basalt-based **ANGEL CUSICK** is the real deal: She spent 15 years at the College of Psychic Studies in London, can connect clients with their dead relatives (50 to 70 percent of her work, she says), and is just generally attuned to the chatter of the spirit world. Of course, the other guests should be careful what they're thinking. Angel can—and will—be listening.

If the grappa starts to flow, the table can only hope that **MICHAEL CHERTOFF** gets a little looser-lipped. The former Secretary of Homeland Security, who comes to town for the Aspen Institute's Security Forum (July 27-30), surely has dozens of extraordinary tales, some perhaps relating to condition. If Chertoff shares only some of his insights—the roots of foreign terrorism, the threat of homemade whackos—expect the table to be riveted.

ANTHONY GIGLIO is the most refreshing of Food & Wine Classic speakers (June 17-19): highly knowledgeable and completely unpretentious. He wrote *Food & Wine's* "Wine Guide" the past three years, yet boasts of the inexpensiveness of the bottles he gives friends at the holidays. The table should hope that grenache or German or Italian wines are poured, as they'll be two of the topics of Giglio's presentations this year.

A sixteen-foot-tall, ten-ton furry elephant might seem a strange invite, but **SNOWY THE MAMMOTH** could soon be the table's biggest local celebrity in more ways than one. Last summer's dig that unearthed more than 600 bones from seven different prehistoric species at Dinger Reservoir in Snowmass will resume this year, and Snowy, now an unofficial Snowmass mascot, could be feeling smug as the notion of "long-term local" is redefined.