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BE A BETTER  
BAKER P. 80

# bon appétit

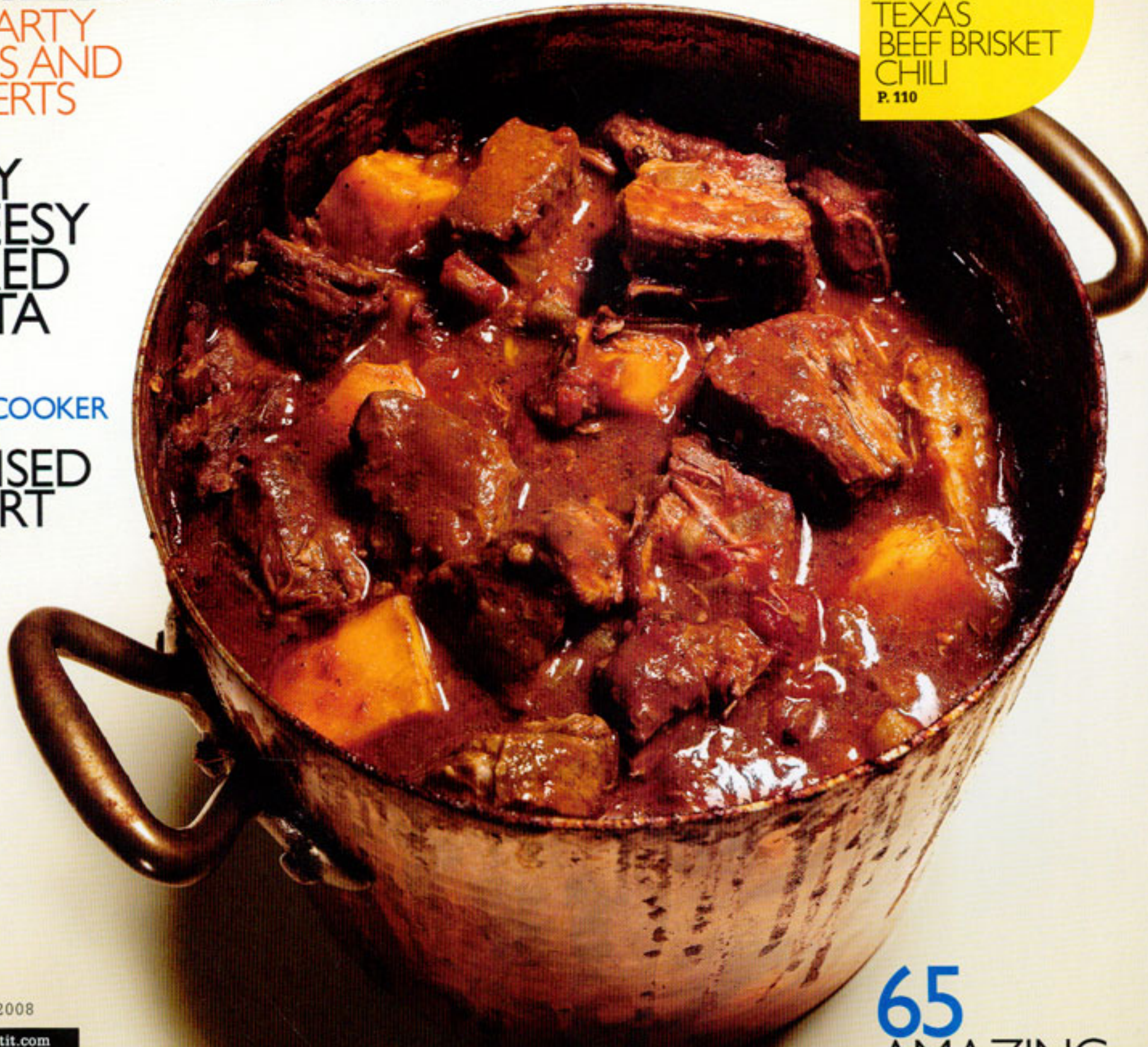
## FALL FEASTS

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MAINS AND  
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OCTOBER 2008

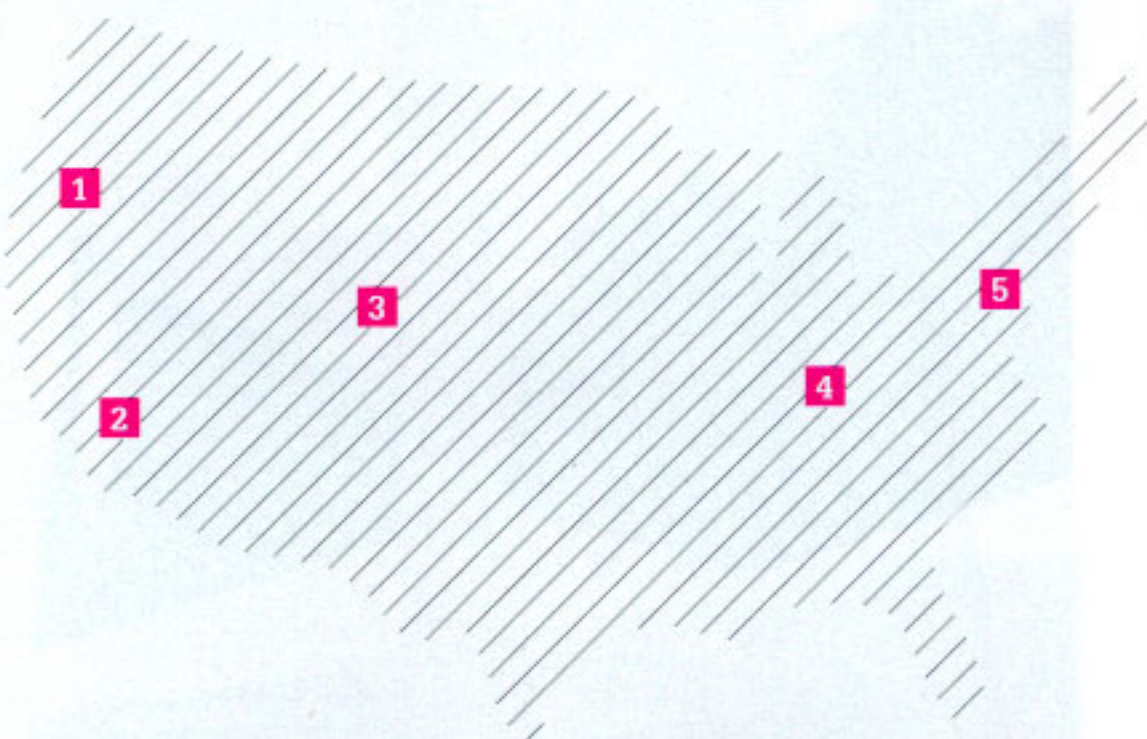
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AMAZING  
FARM-TO-  
TABLE  
RECIPES/

## AMERICA'S FOODIEST SMALL TOWN: THE RUNNERS-UP

Durham-Chapel Hill is our top pick from an impressive lineup. We looked at small cities with a density of farmers' markets, concerned farmers, first-rate restaurant scenes, and talented food artisans. Here are FIVE MORE PLACES where we found a thriving farm-to-table culture.



### **1 EUGENE, Oregon**

With the coast, the mountains, the wine-rich Willamette Valley, and acres of dense forests just outside its back door, it's easy to see why this countercultural hub bristles with first-rate ingredients. Ride your bike to the Lane County Farmers Market for local cheeses, foraged mushrooms, truffles, wild berries, and lots of other organic produce. This isn't a restaurant town, but it is a home cook's paradise.

### **2 PASO ROBLES, California**

Best known as the home to world-class Rhône varietal wines, this small town along the Central Coast of California feels like Napa Valley 25 years ago. There are standout restaurants (Villa Creek and Artisan), excellent olive oils (our favorite is Pasolivo), award-winning cheeses (Rinconada produces a stellar Tomme), and, of course, great wineries. This is the next great California food town.

### **3 BOULDER, Colorado**

Chef Lachlan Mackinnon-Patterson's Friulian-inspired dishes at the award-winning Frasca Food and Wine restaurant are reason enough to skip Denver and head up Route 36 to this eco-conscious community. A few more reasons: Boulder Farmers

Market, the Culinary School of the Rockies, artisanal breweries, The Kitchen and other notable eateries—all guided by an earnest green philosophy.

### **4 LOUISVILLE, Kentucky**

The Kentucky Derby, the Seelbach hotel, and mint juleps—three all-American reasons why we already dig this often overlooked city on the Ohio River. But there's a lot more to love: Louisville's proximity to Bourbon Country, its residents' love of all things pig (Kentucky ham will make you forget about prosciutto), the Hot Brown sandwich, and a growing pool of talented chefs—most notably Michael Paley at Proof on Main.

### **5 RHINEBECK, New York**

The epitome of the picturesque Hudson Valley small town—charming Market Street, independent shops, food-savvy locals—Rhinebeck features sophisticated dining (Gigi Trattoria, Sabroso, Le Petit Bistro), a chocolatier (Oliver Kita), one of the best butchers in the country (Fleisher's), and a guy named Ray Tousey, who sells homemade crème de cassis at the farmers' market on Sundays and Thursdays. —A.K.