EAST BAY express

MAY 5, 2004 | VOLUME 26, NO. 30 | THE EAST BAY'S FREE WEEKLY

Gays

BEST TAKEOUT

Fast food you wish they'd supersize

Grégoire

2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893

GregoireRestaurant.com

After traveling around the world with the Ritz-Carlton, the arrival of a kid finally made a homebody of Grégoire Jacquet. Lucky for us, home turned out to be North Berkeley. Seeking to have both a restaurant and a family life, Jacquet transformed a tiny cottage of a storefront into a takeout restaurant. Fax or call in your order (the month's lunch and dinner menus are all posted online), and twenty minutes later you can drive by, double-park, and pick up stacks of little brown octagonal boxes containing the kind of to-go food that goes better with Pinot Noir than Mountain Dew: smoked-salmon triple-deckers and roasted leg of lamb with manchego sandwiches during the day; nighttime entrées like roasted quails stuffed with chanterelles and bacon; or baked wild bass wrapped in a banana leaf with a cilantro vinaigrette. Jacquet's potato puffs, a miraculous cross between a beignet and a Tater Tot, have earned cult status.