

## restaurant of the year



AWARD OF  
EXCELLENCE

### MERITAGE

Those who admired chef Russell Klein's tenure at W.A. Frost & Co. could see that the New York native clearly knows what he's doing. Anyone who stepped inside the urbane A Rebours knew that the Hamm Building in downtown St. Paul is the perfect home for a stylish bistro.

Combine the two, add Klein's spouse, Desta, to run the front of the house, and the result is **Meritage**. The Kleins' personal and personable eatery effortlessly covers all kinds of dining-out bases, from a pre-Ordway nosh or a business lunch to a pop-the-question dinner or after-church brunch.



John Nasseff (black beret), Helene Houle and Kevin Moore enjoy a holiday season meal at Meritage.

**Chicken soup at Meritage:** Pristine chicken broth. Tiny, meticulously diced bits of carrot. Small snips of fresh dill. A pair of tender dumplings. Taken on their own, perfectly fine; put together by chef Russell Klein and the whole becomes priceless comfort food.



Simple pleasures: Chicken soup with matzo balls at Meritage.