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**CELEB CHEF
GIADA
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*"Mario Batali's
not sensual. That's
what I bring to
the table."*

trend

WHAT'S SWIRLING AROUND IN THE SOCIAL ETHER

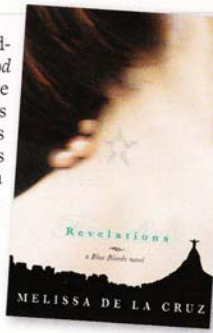
Blood Lust

Dark economic times, the new HBO show *True Blood* and the upcoming cult vampire movie *Twilight* have drawn out our thirst for the undead. Here's how New Yorkers are sinking their teeth into the bloodsucker craze.



POLITICS Longtime NYC photographer Jill Greenberg shot John McCain for the October cover of the *Atlantic Monthly*. Then she stirred up a media brouhaha by photoshopping the would-be Prez into a bloodsucking vampire and posting the ghoulish images on her blog, Manipulator.com. "I left his eyes red and his skin looking bad," said Jill—pissing off both Republicans and, presumably, flawlessly complected vampires. But surely huntress and VP nominee Sarah Palin wouldn't be frightened of a little gore.

BOOKS On October 28, readers can devour *Revelations: A Blue Blood Novel*, a *Gossip Girl* meets *Buffy* tome about elite Manhattan private schoolers descended from nightwalkers. "There's a certain similarity between vampires and celebutantes," says author Melissa De La Cruz of her underage vamps, who haunt Block 122 (based on Bungalow 8) and Dante Inn—a nod to celeb cave the Beatrice Inn. "Vampires are glamorous creatures who stay up all night partying. And they're thin," she adds. "You never hear about a fat vampire."



FOOD New York restaurateurs haven't put plasma on the menu (yet), but boudin noir—blood sausage—is in demand at Landmarc, where Bill and Hillary Clinton dined two weeks ago. It's also served at Bar Boulud, to a carnivorous clientele that includes Anna Wintour. "Blood sausage may not be our top-selling dish," says chef-owner Daniel Boulud. "But there's no way I could leave it off the menu and still call this place a fine charcuterie." The latest boite to get on-trend is Macondo, a new East Houston Street tapas joint where Kevin Spacey recently feasted on *morcilla* (gamy sausages made from pork blood). The dish is such a hit, they're adding sweetbreads (aka animal glands) to the menu.



FASHION More than 100 people in the U.K. are on the waiting list for Burberry's dangerous-looking spiked clutch (below)—perfect for driving through the heart of a vampire if need be. (Special order it for \$2,995 at the 57th Street flagship.) For a peek at fiendish fashions through the ages, check out "Gothic: Dark Glamour," a new exhibit at the Museum at FIT showcasing Victorian mourning wear, Alexander McQueen's spring '01 insane asylum collection and Winona Ryder's costume from *Bram Stoker's Dracula*. "Goth isn't just black-clad teens and rock musicians," says museum director Valerie Steele. "It's a big influence on major designers like Olivier Theyskens [above left]." For fresh blood, Wes Craven and Lindsay Lohan head to Williamsburg boutique Bittersweets New York for owner-designer Robin Adams' fang belt buckles, charms and rings (left).



ART LES artist Jordan Eagles paints abstract canvases in animal blood. Check out his work at Brooklyn's Factory Fresh gallery through October 3. "When I switched over from flat red paint to the organic material, all of a sudden my enthusiasm for the work heightened," he says, chillingly. "The pieces suddenly became alive." The film producers of next September's *When in Rome* (starring Anjelica Huston and Kristen Bell) felt safe enough to snap up one of Jordan's paintings to hang in a scene set at the Guggenheim. —Dan Avery



BLOOD: PHILIP J. BRITTAN/GETTY IMAGES; FANGS: ROB MELNICHUK/GETTY IMAGES; CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY JILL GREENBERG; MICHELLE LEUNG/WIREIMAGE; ROBIN ADAMS (2); COURTESY BURBERRY; COURTESY JORDAN EAGLES; MATHEW IMAGINS/WIREIMAGE; COURTESY HYPERION BOOKS

