

**WU**

WILLAMETTE WEEK'S

RESTAURANT**GUIDE 2007****Southpark**

901 SW Salmon St., 326-1300. Lunch and dinner daily. \$\$-\$\$\$ Moderate-Expensive. Best known for its seafood grill, Southpark concentrates on a handful of haute dishes that manage to enhance the flavor of Hawaiian opah, ono, escolar and Oregon rockfish without smothering them in

shame (or red sauce). The semolina-dusted ruby trout is a perfect example: pan-fried, not over-seasoned, delicate and true to its nature. The paella Valenciana, however, pairs undercooked rice with overcooked chorizo and chicken. The wood floors and burgundy booths inside provide plenty of charm, but the outdoor seating is most popular with museum patrons and passersby on the South Park Blocks. Fair warning: Service can be a bit overdramatic, especially for couples the staff assumes are in the mood for romance. (JP)

SIGNATURE DISH: King salmon and white polenta chive cake with wild mushrooms and herb oil.

STANDOUTS: Pacific oysters with cucumber pink peppercorn mignonette.

REGRETS: Excellent ingredients are paired with uneven execution.

**OUR 100 FAVORITE
RESTAURANTS
PLUS THE RETURN OF
RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR**