



PRIMITIVO WINE BAR AND RESTAURANT

Colorado Springs, Colorado – 1998

“A restaurant is a kind of fantasy – a fantasy in which the patrons are the most important members of the cast” - Warner LaRoy

Diners Guide Review:

“Primitivo represents what may be the only true 5-star restaurant interior in Colorado Springs. This could easily belong in Manhattan or Prague. It's wine menu has garnered a prestigious Wine Spectator award, and the food is unforgettable. Most notably, however, is the atmosphere created by architect Mark Harris. Time travel is possible without crossing the Atlantic.

Situated in the heart of the Colorado Springs downtown district, the interior design of Primitivo represents the concept of projecting backwards and remembering forward. Evoking atmospheres of turn-of-the-Century Viennese neighborhood restaurants, the space simultaneously provided a sense of sophistication and youthful vibrance.

Located in a former Walgreen Drug Store, the late 1970's tile elevational treatments had to be stripped away and the original 1910 elevation of steel and glass had to be recreated. The warm colors of the exterior spill out into the evening streetscape, a perfect contrast to the steel, glass, and brick urban exterior.

Finished in birch, the interiors are simple and warm. A vaulted ceiling caps the space, giving a sense of intimacy in a long, low space. It is possible to be publicly private in this space. This space is a welcomed reprieve from the current aesthetic of over stimulation, providing a dining experience of simplicity, subtly, and warm elegance that is typically only found in the best, and oldest, European restaurants.”

Data:

Client: bigST, inc.

Cost: \$74/SF

Architect: Mark Harris, AIA