

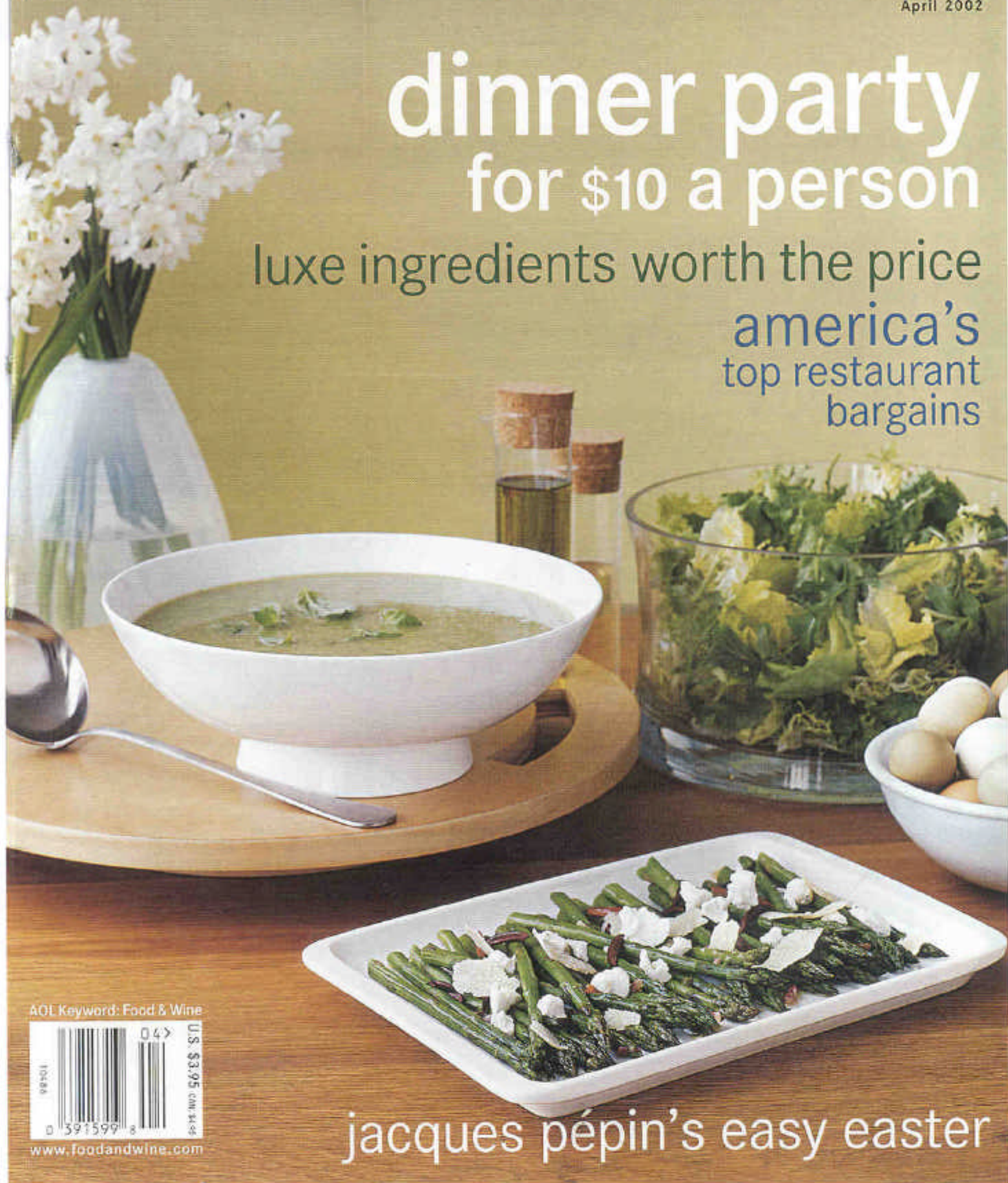
FOOD & WINE

April 2002

dinner party for \$10 a person

luxe ingredients worth the price

america's
top restaurant
bargains



AOL Keyword: Food & Wine



www.foodandwine.com

jacques pépin's easy easter



seasoning

Brown says her cooking improved after she began keeping **MINI-TUREENS** of salt and pepper by the stove. The quick access meant she seasoned food more liberally ("Butler's Pantry" bowls, \$58 each; 800-63-LENOX).



cookbooks Two of Brown's favorites are Lee Bailey's **COOKING FOR FRIENDS** and **SOUP MEALS**: "His language isn't intimidating, and you really get a sense of the South" (Kitchen Arts & Letters; 212-876-5550).

CHIC & THRIFTY TOP

KATIE BROWN—AUTHOR, DO-IT-YOURSELF QUEEN AND HOST OF A NEW TV PROGRAM—NAMES THE THINGS SHE ADORES.

BY MONICA F. FORRESTAL

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secondhand finds

When Brown was younger, she bought used appliances from the **RECYCLER CLASSIFIEDS**, a West Coast weekly (213-473-2691 or www.recycler.com). Brown got her first **KITCHENAID STAND MIXER** there (right, a modern model): "For me, it was a rite of passage, something all the grown-up women in my family had" (\$250; 800-541-6390 or www.kitchenaid.com).



tiles Brown bought **SLATE** tiles for her kitchen floor at Lowe's. "Spills show less on slate, and that's good for a sloppy cook like me," she says (\$1 to \$3 a tile; 800-44-LOWES).

size Brown's dream kitchen is the one at the **GRAND HOTEL** on Mackinac Island, Michigan, which she describes as "the size of a football field." Staff members don't talk much but move smoothly around one another: "It sounds corny, but you feel like you're watching an orchestra" (800-334-7263). Like hotels, Brown buys basic ingredients in bulk—partly because she loves the industrial packaging. One of her favorite bulk suppliers is **SMART & FINAL** (800-793-9344).

color Brown admires **DOROTHY DRAPER**, an interior decorator prominent from the 1920s through the early '60s. Brown says Draper was "whimsical and very brave with color": She picked the signature orange-and-blue combination for Howard Johnson's and painted ceilings in soft hues. In tribute, Brown painted her kitchen ceiling celery green.

stove Brown loves vintage stoves, especially those by **ROPER**: The burners aren't too close together, so pots don't touch (909-445-0300 or www.antiquestoves.com). One tip: If your gas stove has a weak flame, try cleaning the holes in the burner head, which may be clogged.



PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL WISSELEDE (BROWN); WINDBELLY; WEBER; (BOWLS, TILES AND MIXER); CASLIGHT ADVERTISING AGENCIES (SPECTRO-MATIC)