

★ OUR 12TH ANNUAL GUIDE TO THE CITY'S BEST RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT

THE IMPROPER STONER

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PLACE WHERE THE VALETS ARE BORED WITH BENTLEYS
Mistral
223 Columbus Ave., Boston; 617-867-9300;
www.mistralbistro.com

Even in these tough economic times, it's nice to see that the privileged class still enjoys its privileges, one of which is sipping and supping in the postmodern Provencal elegance of this enduringly chic restaurant. That's not to say that the menu is overpriced, or even particularly expensive—the delicious thin-crust pizzas range from \$14 to \$18, and everything else is so outstanding that cost isn't really the point. Still, the crowd is decidedly upscale, tending toward expensive-looking blondes in head-to-toe haute couture and guys whose watches cost as much as a condo. The impeccably professional staff is adept at making everyone, whether prince or pauper, feel at home. And the atmosphere is relaxed and lively, not stuffy. It's enough to make a devout Communist want to become a billionaire.

