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The Columbus Dispatch

Q What is your favorite restaurant?

A Mitchell's Steakhouse.

Q What do you get there?

A Anything that's red meat -- beef.

Q Favorite meal of the day?

A I'm a lunch guy.

Q And where is your favorite place to get lunch?

A My standby would be the Mohawk.

Q Who offers the best appetizers in the city?

A Barcelona.

Q What appetizer do you like there?

A They have a plate of a variety of different things, like Spanish olives and hummus. I actually many times get that for my entire meal; it's so good.

Q Is there a restaurant you consider a hidden jewel?

A It's not probably hidden anymore -- but Luce, up in Powell. It's rocketing quickly to the top.

Q Which restaurant has the best ambience?

A For outdoor patio seating, I love Basi Italia and, once again, Barcelona. For inside, to me -- and it'll come back to my favorite restaurant, probably -- I love the downtown Mitchell's Steakhouse. And **Handke's** is a spectacular venue -- great place.

Q Talk about your favorite soups.

A Basically, any Wisconsin beer-cheese soup. The Mohawk has great soup; I go there and get soup and salad many times. Betty's Fine Food & Spirits, up in the Short North, has a great Asian noodle in a broth.

Q You have \$10 for dinner. Where do you go?

A I go to Pei Wei. I'd get a bowl of their sweet-and-sour soup, and then I also would get their orange-beef entree.

Q Best Mediterranean food in town?

A My Big Fat Greek Cuisina, up on Fishinger Road.

Q Best comfort food?

A Nancy's on N. High Street.

Q Best Asian?

A I like Thai Orchid up on Sawmill Road.

Q Best bakery?

A Pistacia Vera.

Q And best salads?

A I love Bob Evans' salads. That's a real departure from everything I've talked about, but I'll give Bob a little credit.

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