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Chef now California valley guy

By BRADEN KEIL

CHARLIE Palmer has loaded up his wife and four boys and moved to the more sedate confines of Sonoma Valley. The chef/owner of several eminent eateries across the country, including Manhattan's **Aureole**, **Metrazur** and **Kitchen 22**, says it's been his dream to live in a countrified lifestyle, which the Palmers are now enjoying in Healdsburg, Calif.

"I've always wanted something similar to what I experienced while living in France," he said. "Now my backyard overlooks the spectacular foothills of Sonoma County."

Palmer, who co-owns the contemporary-style Hotel Healdsburg — which houses his noted **Dry Creek Kitchen** — say he'll still "spend a significant amount of time in New York" to oversee his culinary interests.

■ Romeo DeGobbi, the longtime maitre d' at the

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original Le Cirque before he opened his own eateries, has resurfaced as Tony May's new general manager at **San Domenico**. DeGobbi is just part of May's recent revamping of the highly rated Italian mainstay, which also includes the posh new Adam Tihany-designed decor.

■ Scott and Heather Frantangelo, the former sous and pastry chefs, respectively, at Union Square Café, have opened **Spigolo**, a 26-seat Italian boite on the Upper East Side.

The husband-and-wife team's new restaurant, at 1561 Second Ave. (at 81st Street), features such dishes as hake fish with crazy water (a spiced tomato liquid), braised octopus and seared monkfish medallions.

■ If something seems to be missing at many of the top-rated restaurants around the country this weekend, it could be the chefs. A cavalcade of culinary talent will descend on Miami Beach on Friday for the three-day **South Beach Wine & Food Festival**. Manhattan chefs will include Daniel Boulud, Todd English, Eric Ripert, Mario Batali, Marcus Samuelsson and Nobu Matsuhisa.

■ This just in: The Michelin Guide, the world's foremost dining guide, is expected to announce its entry into the U.S. market as early as today.

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