



Dallas Sings

An ambitious opera season, 100 years of Neiman Marcus, and Texas-caliber food and shopping.

» **GO FOR** The Dallas Opera's **Death by Diva** season (214/443-1000; www.dallasopera.org). Fifty years ago, the company debuted with a performance by one of opera's most memorable divas, Maria Callas. This year, it celebrates the anniversary by paying homage to other famously fabulous operatic females with performances of *Macbeth*, *The Merry Widow*, *Salome*, *Porgy & Bess*, and *Tosca*. The season runs November 9 through March 15 at The Music Hall at Fair Park.

» **EAT** Named one of the "10 Hottest Restaurants in America" by *Bon Appétit* this year and helmed by handsome young chef Scott Gottlich, **Bijoux** (5450 W. Lovers Lane; 214/350-6100) offers a contemporary French prix fixe menu sprinkled with ingredients such as Texas heirloom tomatoes, Hudson Valley foie gras, and Alaskan ivory salmon. A few blocks away at **Shinsei** (7713 Inwood Road; 214/352-0005), *Top Chef* finalist and executive chef Casey Thompson turns out creative pan-Asian fare, while sushi chef Shuji Sugawara (nicknamed "Elvis" for his black

Cowboy chic (clockwise from top): The scene at Tillman's Roadhouse, Forty Five Ten's polished wares, and *The Merry Widow* at the Dallas Opera.

pompadour) creates dazzling rolls. One of Dallas' newest and most-anticipated eateries is the \$6-million, seven-room stunner **Fearing's** (2121 McKinney Avenue; 214/922-0200). Celebrity chef Dean Fearing sticks to his Southwestern roots with leather, suede, and limestone in the decor and chilies, grits, and game on the menu. Don't miss **Tillman's Roadhouse** (324 W. 7th Street; 214/942-0988), a funky-chic, come-as-you-are institution where sparkling crystal chandeliers share space with rustic tree-stump tables. The venison Frito pie followed by a slice of chocolate birthday cake satisfies the soul.

» **DRINK** Begin the evening with a toast at **Brüt** (5330 E. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 150; 214/827-2788), a cozy retail shop and tasting lounge with the largest selection of champagnes and sparkling wines in the city. If something stronger is in order, have a classic cocktail at the **Library Bar** (3015 Oak Lawn Avenue; 214/521-5151), an elegant, intimate local favorite that oozes old-money sophistication with book-lined walls, dark woods, and plush couches. Come morning, get your caffeine fix at **Gachet Coffee Lounge** (2336 Victory Park Lane; 214/953-1234), a European-inspired coffeehouse in the buzzing Victory Park area.

» **SHOP** Luxury goods purveyor **Neiman Marcus** celebrates its 100th anniversary this year with numerous designer events at its glittering downtown flagship store (1618 Main Street; 214/741-6911). Madonna, Kid Rock, and Billy Bob Thornton have all been kitted out in cutting-edge Western wear – from \$2,200 boots to vintage T-shirts – at **Cowboy Cool** (3699 McKinney Avenue; 214/521-4500). The carefully edited selection of designer clothing, accessories, cosmetics, fragrances, and home decor makes **Forty Five Ten** (4510 McKinney Avenue; 214/559-4510) one of the top boutiques in the country. Hit the chic patio café for lunch or cocktails.

» **STAY** Rest your head at the five-star, 143-room **Mansion on Turtle Creek**. A posh small hotel, the Mansion was once the private home of a Texas cotton magnate, and today it retains its residential feel. The Mansion recently unveiled a complete renovation of its restaurant, which has become a no-jackets-required dining venue. The property also added the formal Chef's Tasting Room, headed by hotel chef John Tesar. In early 2008, the Mansion will complete its sweeping \$20-million hotelwide renovation with updated looks for guest rooms and public spaces. Doubles from \$345, including breakfast.

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