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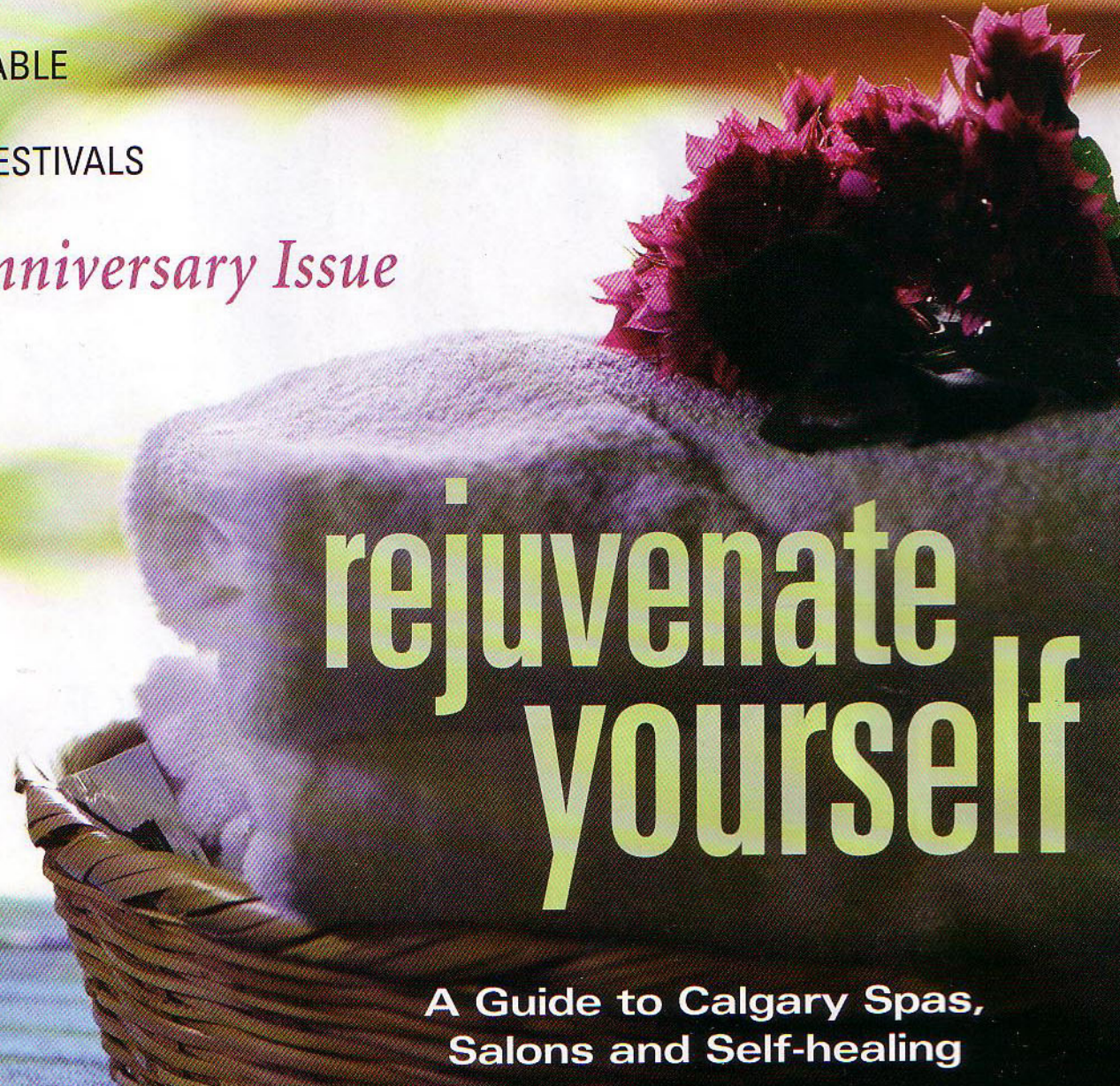
CALGARY'S **10** BEST RESTAURANT PATIOS

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10 Calgary's Ten Best Patios

Enjoy the city's finest al fresco dining
By John Gilchrist

After a long winter of dining inside, Calgarians love to bust out and dine outdoors. On long, bright summer evenings, every restaurant patio and deck is filled with those who love fresh air (Calgary's smoking by-law ensures that all patios are non-smoking), fine food, and a libation or two. There are some delightful places for outdoor dining in Cowtown that range from sprawling garden-style yards to simple planters on the sidewalk. One caution though: always take a jacket or sweater; it cools off quickly at night.

1. Slide around to the back of **Bonterra** and you'll find one of the most nicely landscaped patios in the city. A chunk of former parking lot has been lovingly terraced and arbour'd into a gorgeous, protected patio. You'd almost swear the distant traffic sounds are the Mediterranean lapping the shores (Page 48).

2. The granddaddy of all patios is at **Buzzards**—it's the oldest in Calgary and still one of the best. The sheltered, south-facing terrace allows an outdoor escape even on sunny winter days—I've slaked my thirst with a Buzzards Breath Ale here in every month of the year. Buzzards is also THE place to be for country music and cowboy activity when the Stampede rolls into town in July (Page 51).

3. **Cilantro** provides a walled, breezeless courtyard that makes busy 17th Avenue disappear. The vines have grown long and verdant over the years on this much sought-after patio and the tables bask in the retained warmth of the plaster walls. One hint: the best seats are on the converted verandah of the former house that overlooks the patio (Page 67).

PATIO IN THE PARK AT RIVER CAFÉ (CENTRE); AIRY SECLUSION AT BONTERRA

(RIGHT). 4. Ah, to lie by the pool and have smiling servers bring a fresh mojito every half-hour. Cancun? Waikiki? Nope, the Arts Hotel. With a patio flowing from the **Raw Bar** restaurant/lounge to its open-air pool, the Arts Hotel provides the best of sun, hospitality, and relaxation (Page 65).

