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California

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Caitlyn Bergeron

California

A chilled celery buttermilk soup,
every spoonful a surprise –
nugget lobster, fingerling
potato, broccolini –
kitchen cool, calm, uncrowded
of technicians engrossed
in beautiful food, raging
reverentially, exquisitely
responsive to heartfelt-
inflected food a résumé (stretching)
from the Quilted Giraffe, the city,
to here in the foothills, a cottage,
an obscure Catalan cooking manual
(innovative) tasting exploring
bizarre wild a whimsical foundation
quietly elegant as an amuse-bouche
pink frothy tease, a temple of sweet
faint cucumber onion, jalapeno – strawberry
gazpacho scoop the bottom scramble the egg
tang of fish roe that never comes,
crunch of salt, warm cream,
startling syrup, cooking
is about many things,
the unexpected, depths of flavor,
funkiness, pomegranate reduction
croquettes crunchy gifts in a winter
trilogy: chestnut, mushroom, cider
crisp and shaved.

- found: "Latin Lover," *Gourmet*, February 2003