

The brightest and most reflective memory of **Matthew Linn**'s childhood is having dinner with his parents at the premier Commander's Palace in New Orleans, where he feasted on seven courses. He was six years old.

Born on the Barksdale Military Air Force base in Bossier City, Linn spent his formative years learning how to run a family-owned automotive company, founded by his dad, after school and on weekends, and assisting his mom with the family meal at night. His father, a retired Major who had served during WWII and the Korean Conflict, helped skill young Matthew in areas of business, while the lovely Mrs. Linn introduced Matthew, her youngest of six children, to the dynamic culinary experience from her travels through Europe and Asia. It was Mrs. Linn's intrinsic flair for exotic cuisine that ranged in depth and diversity that piqued Matthew's interest and planted a seed that would later grow and be spun into an ultra-successful Shreveport oasis, The Columbia Café.

With slight restaurant experience but incredible business acumen, Matthew found himself looking at a condemned property during the latter part of the 1990's in the historic Highland District that sits atop one acre of prime real estate. The purchase was a breeze, but the arduous gut renovation required almost eight years and \$1 million. Initially the investment seemed daunting, but given his attention to detail and brilliant work ethic, Matthew focused on the bigger picture and slowly but certainly the uneasiness dissipated and Matthew Linn now finds himself at the helm of one of the choicest hot spots in this hip downtown neighborhood.