

SATURDAY NIGHT

MAGAZINE

MAY 2009
NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT:
A TWENTY-SOMETHING PERSPECTIVE

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THE SCENE



Just when you thought classes were winding down and you'd no longer have to sit in lecture halls or classrooms, we're suggesting you make one last stop to **The Lab**. Fortunately, we're not referring to another four-hour Chemistry 101 lab; we're talking about one of

the newest USC Hospitality restaurants adjacent to the Galen Center.

Like any science lab, The Lab has beakers, textbooks and slate-topped tables, but the similarities end there. If anything, this gastropub resembles a pimped out science lab. In a sparkingly sterile environment, oversized leather chairs, communal tables and flat screen televisions are dispersed throughout the large dining area. There's also an impressive outdoor space with lots of tables and modern couches to enjoy fresh Los Angeles air.

And while the décor's science-theme is certainly cute, The Lab's assortment of reasonably priced appetizers, entrées and beers are truly what makes visiting The Lab worthwhile. Appetizers are about \$6 and entrées are around \$10. The Lab Sampler (\$7) is a great option for sampling four of more than 40 brews available.



Splurge. You deserve it. One sunny afternoon, saunter into the W Hotel in Westwood, veer to the

right and walk up the small flight of stairs to push the heavy, oversized doors that open onto a magical, enchanted world, better known as **The Backyard**.

This outdoor oasis is the Westside's best-kept secret where celebs, businessmen and ordinary Johns and Jane Does come to relax within an exotic garden setting. Bright green cushions are scattered throughout a landscape of palm trees, waterfalls and tropical flowers, creating a serenely tranquil setting for lunch or evening cocktails.

Servers donning casual polo shirts, plaid and khaki shorts display impeccable service as they whisk out fresh Californian fare. Be sure to request the signature spicy ahi tuna tartare, a vibrantly colorful collage of edamame, avocado, fresh tuna and a habanero vinaigrette. The swordfish tacos are also a great recommendation, accompanied by a pleasantly unusual salad with a slightly piquant vinaigrette.

But without question, you *must* save room for the Black and Tan dessert. With its heaping layers of thick butterscotch pudding and rich chocolate fudge, two bites into this decadent treat will send you spiraling upwards to the clouds in pure bliss. Stick around as the sun dips lower in the sky for a more romantic scene.



Boé Restaurant
The Crescent Hotel
403 North Crescent Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
310.247.0505
crescentbh.com



Simply Wholesome
4508 W. Stauson Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90043
323.294.2144
simplywholesome.com



The Lab
3500 South Figueroa
Los Angeles, CA 90089
213.743.1843

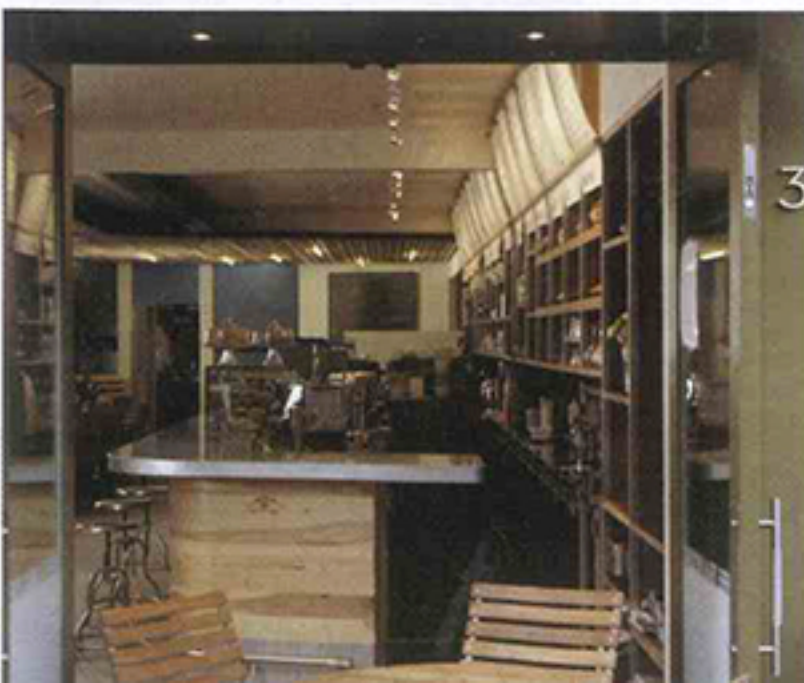


The Backyard
W Hotel Los Angeles
930 Hilgard Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
310.443.8218
starwoodhotels.com

CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO

What do you get when you take a cozy Mission space, add ridiculously cool art pieces hanging on exposed brick walls and then throw in a rotating mix of live music and DJs? Well, you get **Levende Lounge**.

With its nonchalantly sophisticated décor, filled with candles and exposed ceiling beams, Levende is a good choice for your first – or your 50th – night out with that special someone. Plenty of comfy couches are scattered throughout Levende to cozy up with your date and sip on \$2 Pilsner Drafts during the weekday happy hour. The soft glow of candles, low lighting, and the live entertainment create a romantic atmosphere to share hearty appetizers with your significant other. But surely don't miss the Sunday's Boogie brunch. There's nothing like bonding with your boo while building your own Bloody Marys and egg benedicts to nurse your hangover from Saturday.



Treating your body well can be burdensome – and downright grueling. Who wants to wake up on chilly mornings to run five miles or shell out money for a rarely used gym membership? Fortunately for the average schmuck who doesn't want to go through self-inflicted torture but still wants to remain somewhat healthy, there's **The Plant Café Organic**. Its delicious specialties and one-of-a-kind juices have vitamins, enzymes and other nutritious treats to keep your body healthy and in top-notch condition.

Stop in for a basil tofu scramble during a leisurely weekend brunch or treat yourself to the California burger – a veggie patty with avocado and white cheddar cheese [yum!] for lunch. If you're ever pressed for time, The Plant Café has a variety of grab-and-go meals, including salads, spring rolls and sandwiches. And of course, it's never too early or late to order a smoothie, especially if it happens to be the delicious strawberry mojito smoothie.