

THE TASTEMAKER'S GUIDE TO

LOS ANGELES



CHRISTIE'S

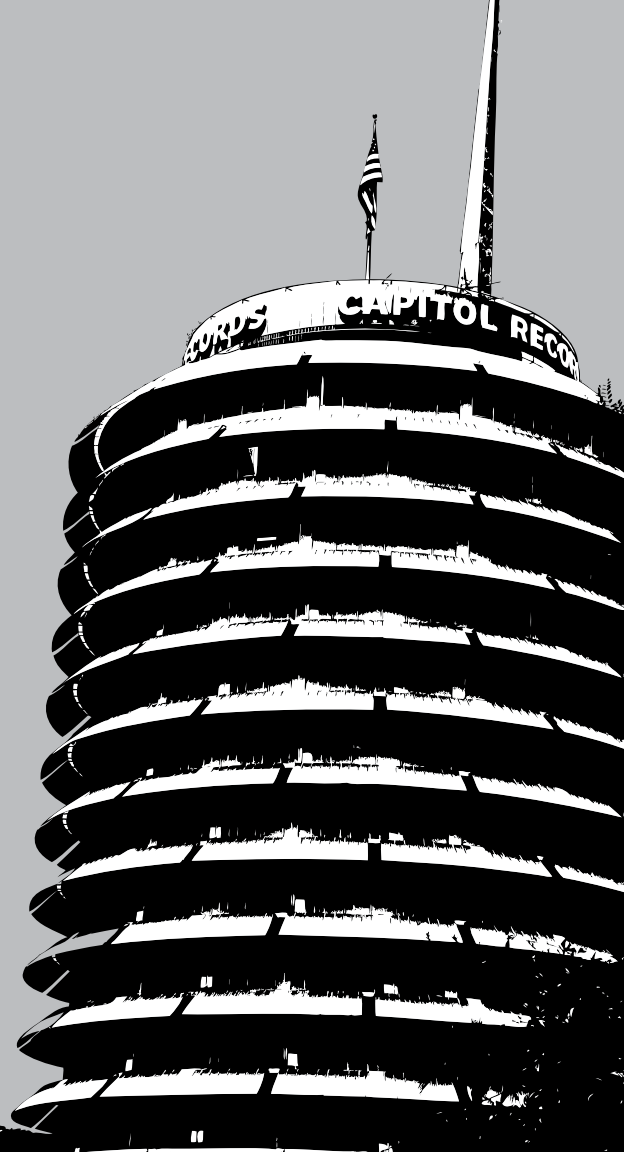
JW MARRIOTT



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TASTEMAKER'S
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A Christie's and JW Marriott Production





As the entertainment capital of the world, Los Angeles knows how to inspire, delight and captivate. From the moment you set foot in this city of a thousand dreams, you'll be treated to an adventure worthy of a soaring Hollywood score. This guide, presented by Christie's and JW Marriott, is intended to give you stage front access to the best the city has to offer. So check out the red carpet lights, keep your camera ready and let our recommendations place you at the center of the action.

WHEN HUNGER STRIKES

D I N I N G

Los Angeles' landscape might be best evoked by its crisscrossing highways, but the city's foodscape is defined by something entirely less urban—a love of farm-fresh ingredients. An epicenter of myriad cuisines, traditions here are infused with the boundary-breaking creativity that defines West Coast living.

A.O.C.

LOS ANGELES: 8022 W. 3RD ST. // +1 323 653 6359

Cuisine: Californian/ French/ Small Plates

Start with a cheese plate that pairs selections from the Loire Valley and Catalonia, then continue your European-themed gastronomical journey with a pizza from this upscale wine bar's wood-burning oven. Save room for dessert—we recommend the s'mores, a twist on the classic version served with chocolate sorbet and brûléed marshmallows.

THE BAZAAR

LOS ANGELES: 465 S. LA CIENEGA BLVD. // +1 310 246 5555

Cuisine: Spanish

Restaurant-goers can choose their own adventure at executive chef José Andrés' monument to Spanish cuisine, which took the "Top Newcomer" honor in Zagat's 2010 guide. Divided into different rooms each featuring their own distinct menu, this restaurant's cross-menu ordering option means you can experience the sweet confections of a European patisserie and the delights of the Mediterranean without ever leaving your table.

CAMPANILE

LOS ANGELES: 624 LA BREA AVE. // +1 323 938 1447

Cuisine: Californian/ Mediterranean

This is classic Hollywood glamour at its best. While we like the decorative flourishes—the arched stone entryways and tiled walls—what we really love is the fact that Campanile's attention to detail extends to nearly every dish that comes out of this James Beard award-winning kitchen. This restaurant is steeped in silver screen tradition (it's housed in a structure originally built for Charlie Chaplin) but still maintains a winningly whimsical approach (check out its Grilled Cheese Night).

CUT BEVERLY HILLS

BEVERLY HILLS: 9500 WILSHIRE BLVD. // +1 310 276 8500

Cuisine: Steakhouse

This Wolfgang Puck restaurant has jettisoned any notions of steakhouse decor in favor of a sleek interior featuring works by California artist John Baldessari. Premium cuts finished under a 1200° broiler come with an array of gourmet fixings including wasabi-yuzu kosho butter sauce, wild field mushrooms and black truffles.

GIORGIO BALDI

SANTA MONICA: 114 W. CHANNEL RD. // +1 310 573 1660

Cuisine: Italian

Just one bite of the branzino that's flown in from Italy and you'll be captivated by this family-run trattoria that updates classics from the old country with seasonal ingredients. In winters past, the kitchen has been inspired by white truffles, among other ingredients. What warm- or cold-weather delights will Giorgio Baldi's have in store within the coming months? We'll leave that to you to discover.

HAMAMORI RESTAURANT AND SUSHI BAR

COSTA MESA: 3333 BEAR ST. #320 // +1 714 850 0880

Cuisine: Sushi

With a menu that incorporates the cornerstones of Japanese cuisine with entrees that showcase the creativity of chef James Hamamori, this restaurant caught our eye with its playful juxtapositions like shiitake frites with white truffle scented crème fraîche. What keeps us coming back is the consistency of the offerings, not to mention the reasonable prices.

LA MARKET RESTAURANT BY KERRY SIMON

LOS ANGELES: 900 W. OLYMPIC BLVD. // +1 213 765 8630

Cuisine: American/ Californian

As its name would suggest, this dynamic restaurant located within the JW Marriott Los Angeles is focused on market freshness. The seasonally-inspired menu means diners will have their pick of a constantly changing array of soups, salads and main courses like the roasted squab.

LUCQUES

WEST HOLLYWOOD: 8474 MELROSE AVE. // +1 323 655 6277

Cuisine: Mediterranean

Arriving at Lucques is akin to walking into a family member's Mediterranean retreat. This old brick carriage house is immediately welcoming, and the ingredients used throughout this diverse menu—polenta, bittersweet chocolate, pancetta—infuse the offerings with a homey goodness that will make you want to pull up a chair and stay awhile.

PIZZERIA MOZZA

LOS ANGELES: 641 N. HIGHLAND AVE. // +1 323 297 0101

Cuisine: Pizza/ Italian

Yes, they offer mouthwatering antipasti, to say nothing of the espresso granita that makes us feel like we're strolling around the streets of Rome, but the heart and soul of the operation at Pizzeria Mozza is, of course, the pizza. Chef Nancy Silverton has teamed up with restaurateurs Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich in this slice of Hollywood heaven. The result? Culinary fireworks...and one of the best pizza crusts we've ever tasted.

PROVIDENCE

LOS ANGELES: 5955 MELROSE AVE. // +1 323 460 4491

Cuisine: Seafood

Seafood aficionados rejoice. This Los Angeles hot spot remains true to the classics (delightfully, chowder is referenced as 'chowda') but adds creative panache to everything from the market specials to the miso cheesecake. If your dining companions are more turf than surf, options like the duck breast with grilled strawberries or veal tenderloin with chanterelles are sure to satisfy. Pair your pick with a selection from the world-class wine list that boasts over 400 bottles.

SCARPETTA

BEVERLY HILLS: 225 N. CANON DR. // +1 310 860 7800

Cuisine: Italian

With its elegantly appointed dining room and option to dine alfresco, Scarpetta at the Montage Beverly Hills Hotel is a superbly sophisticated dining experience. Brunch at the restaurant, served buffet-style, is a true experience. We recommend seconds of the ricotta lemon pancakes.

WP24 BY WOLFGANG PUCK

LOS ANGELES: 900 W. OLYMPIC BLVD. // +1 213 743 8824

Cuisine: Chinese

The panoramic views are more than memorable and the modern Chinese cuisine is just as attention-grabbing. If you're there on a Sunday, check out their dinner dim sum menu. WP24 also offers a tasting menu—a veritable palette of ingredients that demonstrates the chefs in this kitchen are true artisans of their craft.



Notes



CULTURE VULTURE

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

In a town known for its moving pictures, the spectacular collection of renowned art institutions within Los Angeles proves that the city understands the value of a still image, too. Museums, including those that celebrate natural and cultural histories, illuminate the stories that connect us all.

BLUM & POE GALLERY

LOS ANGELES: 2727 S. LA CIENEGA BLVD. // +1 310 836 2062

This 21,000-square-foot space features some of the most notable contemporary art being produced today. Takashi Murakami and Yoshitomo Nara are perennial collector favorites among a strong international roster that also includes Mark Grotjahn, Keith Tyson and Sam Durant.

CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM

LOS ANGELES: 425 N. LOS ANGELES ST. // +1 213 485 8567

History is not only presented behind these walls, it's within the walls themselves. This museum is located in the only surviving structure of Los Angeles' original Chinatown. An ever-changing selection of exhibitions illuminates over 150 years of Chinese American history.

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

BEVERLY HILLS: 456 N. CAMDEN DR. // +1 310 271 9400

A tour through Los Angeles' art scene wouldn't be complete without a stop at Gagosian Gallery. In 2011 alone, the gallery's Beverly Hills location mounted ten exhibitions featuring artists including Diane Arbus, Ed Ruscha and Mike Kelley, among others.

THE GETTY CENTER

LOS ANGELES: 1200 GETTY CENTER DR. // +1 310 440 7300

A renowned art museum that is part of a larger cultural institution, the Getty offers visitors a world of creativity. From Neolithic sculptures dating back to 6000 B.C. to Bill Viola's groundbreaking video art, the collection features something for every taste and interest. Visit their website to learn more

about the lectures, performances and gallery talks that may be taking place during your visit.

GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY

LOS ANGELES: 2800 E. OBSERVATORY RD. // +1 213 473 0800

This city attracts a fair number of stargazers. The astronomically-minded ones head straight to the Griffith Observatory, a popular attraction featuring a planetarium and free access to public telescopes, as well as a wide range of programs and events.

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

SAN MARINO: 1151 OXFORD RD. // +1 626 405 2100

In a fast-paced city like Los Angeles, the Huntington provides for a bucolic oasis where visitors can relax and take in a diverse range of cultural offerings, all in one place. View masterpieces like Gainsborough's *Blue Boy* and Audubon's *The Birds of America* before taking a stroll through one of 14 themed botanical gardens. Consider making a reservation at the tea room to round out a leisurely afternoon.

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

LOS ANGELES: 369 E. 1ST ST. // +1 213 625 0414

As the largest museum in the United States focused on Japanese American culture and history, this institution presents an assortment of treasured artifacts and works of art. Conveniently located in the heart of Little Tokyo, we suggest grabbing a bite in one of the neighborhood's confectionaries before exploring the museum's fascinating collection.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART (LACMA)

LOS ANGELES: 5905 WILSHIRE BLVD. // +1 323 857 6000

We could spend all day here. This museum, containing over 100,000 objects, is the largest art museum in the western United States. You'll find works by artists from antiquity to the present day—be sure to check out the museum's stellar collection of California decorative art and design.

MARGO LEAVIN GALLERY

WEST HOLLYWOOD: 812 N. ROBERTSON BLVD. // +1 310 273 0603

Tony Oursler, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Longo, Dan Flavin and John Baldessari are just a few of the renowned artists represented by this gallery, located just off Santa Monica Boulevard. Owner Margo Leavin has been in the business over 40 years, and her presentation of group and solo exhibitions is well worth the stop.

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA)

LOS ANGELES: 250 S. GRAND AVE. (MOCA GRAND AVENUE)

LOS ANGELES: 152 N. CENTRAL AVE. (THE GEFFEN CONTEMPORARY AT MOCA)

WEST HOLLYWOOD: 8687 MELROSE AVE. (MOCA PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER)

// +1 213 621 1741

The permanent collection alone is worth the visit, but museum-goers shouldn't miss out on the institution's temporary exhibitions, which always provide a fascinating look into myriad subjects. With three different locations, you can choose the site that works best for your itinerary—or decide to visit them all!

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES: 900 EXPOSITION BLVD. // +1 213 763 3466

Watch a dinosaur fossil being cleaned before heading over to the spider pavilion to see a wide array of eight-legged creatures weaving their intricate webs—and that's all before lunch, which you can now have at the newly opened NHM Grill.

REGEN PROJECTS

LOS ANGELES: 633 N. ALMONT DR. // +1 310 276 5424

It's galleries like Regen Projects that demonstrate Los Angeles' place as a hub of artistic and creative enterprise. Past exhibitions include works by internationally recognized, California-based artists like Catherine Opie, as well as global superstars like Anish Kapoor.

UCLA HAMMER MUSEUM

LOS ANGELES: 10899 WILSHIRE BLVD. // +1 310 443 7000

The bold stripes across the exterior of UCLA's Hammer Museum are just the first hint of the exciting collection of art within its walls. Since 2005, the museum has placed a particular emphasis on building its contemporary art collection, and visitors will find a strong group of works by artists from southern California. Other highlights include paintings by Cézanne, Pissarro and Gauguin, as well as Sargent's masterpiece, *Dr. Pozzi at Home*.





RETAIL THERAPY

SHOPPING

So many of fashion's hottest trends are influenced by the Hollywood stars whose style picks become overnight sensations. With that in mind, what better place to shop than the city these actors and actresses call home?

DECADES

LOS ANGELES: 8214 ½ MELROSE AVE. // +1 323 655 0223

We're fairly certain the name of this designer consignment shop stems from the years of fashion you'll find within its walls, but we like to think it also refers to the average amount of time shoppers will want to spend in this vintage clothing paradise. Style hunters will swoon over the designer labels—Chanel, Gucci, YSL—and one-of-a-kind couture pieces.

ERICA COURTNEY

LOS ANGELES: 7465 BEVERLY BLVD. // +1 323 938 2373

If you've fallen in love with the glamour of Hollywood and want to take a piece back home, visit Erica Courtney's fine jewelry boutique for bracelets, rings and necklaces that will make you feel red carpet-ready no matter where you go. We hear Madonna, Julia Roberts and Reese Witherspoon are all fans of Erica's unique designs.

MODERNICA

LOS ANGELES: 7366 BEVERLY BLVD. // +1 323 933 0383

Modernica demonstrates that modern design can be effortlessly contemporary. From the clean lines of ribbed pendant lamps to the iconic forms of Noguchi coffee tables, their showroom contains a strong selection of furniture and a sales team ready to help you find that perfect piece.

MORTISE AND TENON

LOS ANGELES: 446 S. LA BREA AVE. // +1 323 937 7654

This upscale furniture store offers an eclectic mix of items for the home. The furnishings range in influence from industrial chic to classical. For

travelers trying to pack everything into a suitcase, there are plenty of smaller home accents that will add style without taking away space.

RE-MIX

LOS ANGELES: 7605 ½ BEVERLY BLVD. // +1 323 936 6210

With a selection that includes never worn vintage shoes, as well as faithful reproductions, Re-mix is the place to go if you want to step out in style in looks from the 1920s-1970s. For the well-dressed man or woman who wants to advance their wardrobe with details from the past, this shoe store is the perfect fit.

ROBERTSON BOULEVARD

LOS ANGELES: BETWEEN WILSHIRE AND BEVERLY BLVDs.

While you're perusing the options at Dolce & Gabbana or one of the other designer boutiques on this street, you might have a chance to do a little stargazing while you shop. This boulevard, one of the city's most popular streets, is a common stomping ground for celebrities. Be on the lookout for a spectacular garment or accessory—and your favorite actor or actress.

RODEO DRIVE AND BEVERLY HILLS' GOLDEN TRIANGLE

BEVERLY HILLS: BETWEEN SANTA MONICA BLVD., WILSHIRE BLVD. AND CRESCENT DR.

Rodeo Drive has become synonymous with shopping and for good reason—it features just about every designer label you can imagine. For those looking for a variety of styles under one roof, Wilshire Boulevard features a range of department stores including Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus and Barneys New York.





SITTING PRETTY

BEAUTY

West Coasters have perfected beauty regimens based on health and overall wellness. These spas and salons ensure that travelers leave relaxed and rejuvenated, from head to toe.

BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL SPA BY LA PRAIRIE

BEVERLY HILLS: 9641 SUNSET BLVD. // +1 310 887 2006

Is there a more soothing, pampered environment for a spa? From the moment you pull up to the brightly-hued, macaroon-colored confection of a building that is the Beverly Hills Hotel, you know you're in for a treat. The spa uses top-of-the-line skincare products by La Prairie and is known for its private poolside cabanas.

CHI NAIL BAR AND ORGANIC SPABEVERLY HILLS: 9390 LITTLE SANTA MONICA BLVD.
// +1 310 858 8803

While they offer a full suite of spa treatments, Chi is, first and foremost, a place for nails. Gel manicures are just the start. For a more daring crowd, Chi also provides 3-D nail art and Swarovski nail jewelry. To start your time in Los Angeles off on the right foot, consider scheduling a therapeutic pedicure that utilizes an exfoliating jade and ginseng scrub.

KINARA SPA

WEST HOLLYWOOD: 656 N. ROBERTSON BLVD. // +1 310 657 9188

A must-stop when you're feeling a little *kinara*, meaning "on the edge" in Hindi, this urban oasis offers an anti-stress package consisting of a Bora Bora scrub and an 80-minute custom massage.

ONA SPA

LOS ANGELES: 7373 BEVERLY BLVD. // +1 323 931 4442

This spa takes its name from the French Basque dialect word meaning "all good things," and that philosophy is carried out through its wide range of treatments. Some good things that should be on your list: order lunch while you finish your

manicure, then schedule the chocolate and rose signature body treatment for dessert.

THE RITZ-CARLTON SPA

LOS ANGELES: 900 W. OLYMPIC BLVD. // +1 213 763 4400

Adjacent to the JW Marriott Los Angeles, this spa provides unparalleled comfort in a conveniently central location. Select from a list of offerings that includes everything from exfoliating body therapies to spa experiences that group favorite facials, massages and nail treatments into customized packages.

THE SPA AT THE PENINSULA BEVERLY HILLS

BEVERLY HILLS: 9882 S. SANTA MONICA BLVD. // +1 310 551 2888

Situated in a rooftop garden, this spa is pure luxury at the highest level. Several massage treatments make use of Shiffa precious gem-saturated oils containing diamonds and rubies. Other services include elements that are a little more down to earth—the oxygen facial is meant to stimulate collagen production, while the espresso mud body scrub promises to draw out impurities.

THIBIAANT BEVERLY HILLS DAY SPA

BEVERLY HILLS: 449 N. CANON DR. // +1 310 278 7565

Facials, massages and body glow treatments are all available at this renowned Beverly Hills spa, but we like that it also offers finishing touches including spray tanning and makeup packages. Their services exemplify professionalism and convenience, no doubt just a few of the reasons why they've been in business over 30 years.





PAINT THE TOWN

MUSIC, DANCING
& NIGHTLIFE

With a social scene that boasts after parties for the after parties, Los Angeles is a place to see and be seen into the wee hours. Here we raise our glass to a select group of hot spots that keep things effortlessly cool.

BAR LUBITSCH

WEST HOLLYWOOD: 7702 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

// +1 323 654 1234

Whether you're interested in dancing the night away or lounging while sipping from a selection of over 200 vodkas, this Russian-themed bar is the place for you. Red booths and propaganda posters lend a clandestine mood to this pleasantly crowded but never packed bar.

BAR NOIR

BEVERLY HILLS: 140 S. LASKY DR. // +1 310 281 4000

If you're looking for a quiet, laid-back evening out on the town, Bar Noir is the place to go for those seeking a relaxed and cozy atmosphere. It's fairly small but rarely overcrowded—great for catching up with friends.

BORDELLO

LOS ANGELES: 901 E. 1ST ST. // +1 213 687 3766

Ambience is everything at Bordello, and the chandeliers, velvet upholstered sofas and soft rose lighting all add to the 19th century vaudeville vibe. Enjoy jazz, blues or burlesque acts, depending on the evening.

CAMEO BAR AT THE VICEROY HOTEL

SANTA MONICA: 1819 OCEAN AVE. // +1 310 260 7500

Candlelight and a retro-glam decor are just the start. Signature cocktails, like the strawberry rhubarb lemonade, are crowd pleasers, as are the small plates, including the salami flatbread. Their weekday happy hour from 4-7 p.m. makes it a great place to start your evening. If you're there on the weekend, you can relax and enjoy music from renowned local D.J.'s.

THE EDISON

LOS ANGELES: 108 W. 2ND ST. #101 // +1 213 613 0000

The interior alone makes it one of our favorite stops in town. As you might expect from a bar that shares a name with the inventor of the light bulb, the lamps and other fixtures throughout are superb and create a real sense of atmosphere. It's located in a space that was once Los Angeles' first private power plant, and even some of the food selections, like the bacon maple beer nuts, contribute to the overall industrial feel.

FORMOSA CAFE

WEST HOLLYWOOD: 7156 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

// +1 323 850 9050

The interior of this trolley car-turned-lounge is iconic and certainly worth seeing in and of itself. Once you're there, indulge in the truffle frites or the lobster mac and cheese and order from a superlative list of cocktails.

GLANCE WINE BAR

LOS ANGELES: 900 W. OLYMPIC BLVD. // +1 213 765 8600

Located on the lobby level of the JW Marriott Los Angeles, this wine bar features a strong list for oenophiles, plus a selection of cocktails and beers. Munch on sweet potato fries or for something sweet, try the warm chocolate cake with vanilla bean ice cream.

KODAK THEATRE

HOLLYWOOD: 6801 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. // +1 323 308 6300

As the site for the annual Academy Awards ceremony, you can visit this 3,332-seat theatre during the day to take a guided tour that gives you access to the site's VIP room, among other

highlights. But to get the full Kodak Theatre experience, why not attend one of the venue's evening performances? With a rotating lineup of events and concerts, the caliber of entertainment and elegant interior will undoubtedly make you feel like a star.

LOS ANGELES OPERA

LOS ANGELES: 135 N. GRAND AVE. // +1 213 972 7211

The Los Angeles Opera has become a true creative force within the city and is now the fourth largest opera company in the United States. Led by legendary star and general director Plácido Domingo, you can enjoy moving and inspiring productions during their season which typically runs from September through June.

LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

LOS ANGELES: 111 S. GRAND AVE. (WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL)

LOS ANGELES: 2301 N. HIGHLAND AVE. (HOLLYWOOD BOWL)

// +1 323 850 2000

Whether you see the group in the Walt Disney Concert Hall (designed by architect Frank Gehry) or during the summer months at the Hollywood Bowl (the largest natural amphitheater in the United States), the experience makes for a delightful evening you won't soon forget. Don't miss the opportunity to picnic before the concert at the Hollywood Bowl location—some tables are available beginning four hours before each concert.

ROOFTOP BAR AT THE STANDARD

LOS ANGELES: 550 S. FLOWER ST. // +1 213 892 8080

The Standard's rooftop bar channels the spirit of the 1960s—think bold reds and whites with neon accents—taking the best bits of mod to create

a look that is modern but far from modest. The expansive view of the city's towering skyscrapers is stunning, and unusual elements like red AstroTurf and sculptural topiaries create a memorable scene.

THE TOWER BAR AT THE SUNSET TOWER HOTEL

WEST HOLLYWOOD: 8358 SUNSET BLVD. // +1 323 654 7100

An architectural landmark and one of West Hollywood's main attractions, you can sip cocktails at this hotel's bar or by the pool. Meant to serve as a haven—for celebrities, tourists and residents—its "no cell phones, no cameras" policy is just one sign of this establishment's commitment to offering peace and privacy.

THE VARNISH

LOS ANGELES: 118 E. 6TH ST. // +1 213 622 9999

A hidden gem in every sense of the phrase, the Varnish is a bar tucked into the back corner of Cole's restaurant. When the door opens at 8 p.m., visitors are invited to step into another world. It earns high marks for its cool, speakeasy style and ice stations filled with towering mounds of fresh fruit. A round of tasty cocktails awaits.





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