

After the Fire | Election Crib Sheet | Alan Rickman

# Los Angeles

## Best New Restaurants

FROM SUSHI BARS TO PIZZA JOINTS...A DELICIOUS YEAR IN REVIEW



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And the Winners Are...  
(SEE PAGE 92)



OSTERIA MOZZA

be. At **Osteria Mozza** the large, single *raviolo* envelops the egg in a gossamer layer of pasta. As the creation yields easily to a fork, the mixture of yolk, ricotta, and brown butter accented with sage unleashes the full-blown generosity that only an egg can provide. » 6602 Melrose Ave., Hollywood, 323-297-0100 or mozza-la.com.

### \* Breakfast Bonanza

IF VENICE BEACH AND BAVARIAN veal sausage don't sound like a Grand Slam combo, you haven't been to **3 Square Café + Bakery**. Hans Röckenwagner's latest venture puts a contemporary Teutonic twist—in a good way—on morning staples like *Leberkäs*, a meat loaf that comes with two eggs and a warm pretzel roll, and a billowy German pancake stuffed with thinly sliced apples and topped with *crème fraîche*—no syrup needed. Other choices include *huevos rancheros* with a *mini chile relleno* and a crunchy ham and cheese *panini* on extra-sour rye—all served on white porcelain in the glass-enclosed café or on the patio. (The bakery is adjacent.) To counteract your wake-up cappuccino, sip an Austrian Bellini made with elderflower liqueur and *prosecco*. » 1121 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, 310-399-6504 or rockenwagner.com.

### \* Regal Chicken

THE BONELESS, SKINLESS white-meat craze of the '90s all but erased chicken from our upscale menus. But the whole bird—slow roasted and skin crisped—is one of poultry's finer moments. No place elevates the humble hen quite like **Comme Ça**, where roasted chicken for two is Monday's dish du jour. Stuffed with rosemary and nestled in a pan with

sters in attendance take breaks from checking each other out, they can eye the Orpheum sign and the city lights spreading in perpetuity. They can also wave to guests enjoying cocktails on the Standard's rooftop patio a few stories below before turning to their *gyoza*-skin tacos and tuna-*paki* "martinis" with caviar and mashed potato florets. » 811 Wilshire Blvd., downtown, 213-236-9600 or elevatelounge.com.

### \* Pasta Supreme

THE EGG YOLK HAS BEEN derided, pilloried, stripped from its partner in many a fancy-schmancy egg-white-only omelette. It's had its cholesterol properties flung at it like an accusation. A reprieve is in the air, however. Chefs are finding inspiration in the runny yellow center, and once again eggs anchor salads, garnish sides, and nudge *lardons* to be all they can

## Stellar View

THE SCENE OUTSIDE A RESTAURANT'S windows can be as compelling as the one inside. This year saw the addition of the Penthouse, on the 18th floor of Santa Monica's Huntley Hotel, and **Takami Sushi**, a modern aerie 21 stories above Wilshire and Flower. During the day the Penthouse has the edge, thanks to an ocean panorama, but at night Takami, with its swath of floor-to-ceiling windows, knocks our socks off. When the trend-

### CHEF'S CHOICE

**Josiah Citrin**  
MÉLISSE

"The eel salad at **Fraiche** is really tasty and fresh. You don't see eel on many menus. It comes with arugula, orange, radish, and mint. The *farro* salad is really good, too."

JESSICA BOONE



## TRENDS WE HATE

- > The return of the proffered cork. We didn't sniff it the first time around.
- > Waitstaff tucking check covers into the back of their pants. What makes you think we'd want to be handed something stored in the crack of your butt?
- > Cheese plates inundated by multiple unnecessary garnishes.
- > Absentee chefs.
- > Waiters so intent on asking (for the 18th time) how things are, they don't realize you're proposing to/breaking up with your significant other.
- > Flat-screen TVs in restaurants that should know better.
- > Sommeliers giving glasses a swirl of wine before pouring from the bottle. If your dishwashing machine is leaving deposits, fix that instead.