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TO-DIE-FOR JEWELRY

INSIDE A DESIGNER'S LUXURIOUS BEL AIR RETREAT

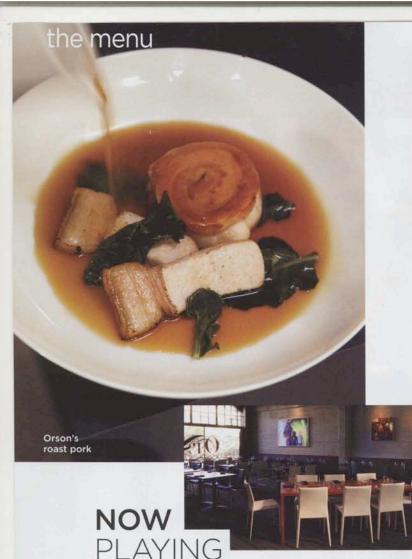
THE ESSENTIAL CALIFORNIA COOKBOOK

WILL THE PAPARAZZI BOOM EVER END?

MAGGIE ONE COOL CUSTOMER

MAY 2008 \$4.99 0 5>

SURF'S UP HIGH-STYLE BEACH SHACKS





WESTWOOD

King's Palace

Just around the bend from the collegiate frenzy of L.A.'s Westwood Village, the W Hotel is an oasis of subdued civility. Among the hotel's most enticing features is its restaurant, NineThirty, a handsomely appointed space that strikes all the right minimal notes, from well-proportioned beige-upholstered chairs to sleek wooden screens. With nary a flat-screen TV in sight, this is clearly a setting geared

toward grown-up gourmands. And with newly installed executive chef Monique King steering its menu, Nine-Thirty strikes sophisticated notes with each of its artfully composed dishes, from seared scallops with butternut squash puree to a sublime smoked pork chop. 930 Hilgard Ave., L.A., 310-443-8211. N.C.

OPENED BY SAN FRANCISCO CHEF ELIZABETH FALKNER OF CITIZEN CAKE FAME, **ORSON** OFFERS AN AMBITIOUS MENU AND SLEEK DECOR. STANDOUTS INCLUDE HIGH-CONCEPT WOOD-FIRED PIZZAS AND A WHITE BUTTERFISH "BRULEE." 508 4TH ST., S.F., 415-777-1508; ORSONSF.COM. CHLOÉ HARRIS

NAPA VALLEY

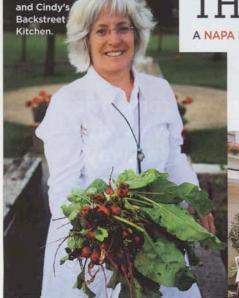
THECLIST

A NAPA FOOD INSIDER'S TOP PICKS

Celebrating 25 years of **Mustards Grill** (707-944-2424) in Yountville this year, taste-making dovenne of Napa cui-

sine **Cindy Pawlcyn** was among the first chefs to connect farm to table. The longtime St. Helena resident could never be called "not busy," jumping from Mustards and **Cindy's Backstreet Kitchen** (707-963-1207) to her newest, **Go Fish** (707-963-0700). She shared her local foodie faves with *C.* ARTISANAL ERRANDS I'm always running over for polenta at **Bale Grist Mill.** VINE AFFAIR I love **Robert**

Sinskey (707-944-9090) for his biodynamics, and Frog's Leap (707-963-4704). DINE AROUND Since The Diner closed, I go to Pearl (707-224-9161). Ubuntu (707-251-5656) is great. And there's nothing better in S.F. than Swam Oyster Depot (415-673-1101). SECRET INGREDIENT Maldon Sea Sait. Its flake and crystal size is perfect. SPRING PICKS Rhubarb and asparagus, artichoke and pea shoots. SWEET TREAT The folks from Woodhouse (707-963-8072) eat in my restaurant—their chocolate is the best. TABLETOP STOP Shackford's (707-226-2132) and Vintage Home (707-963-7423). cindysbackstreetkitchen.com. A.C.S.



Chef Cindy

Pawlcyn