

February-March 2010

Audience: 12,000 Subscribers

WHY WE LOVE L.A.: *THE BAZAAR AT SLS Hotel*, a fantastical and playful hotel and restaurant, filled with dark and sexy atmosphere and the incredibly innovative cooking of GQ Chef of the Year *José Andrés*. Andrés walks a tight rope between magic and culinary sophistication and never stumbles. The restaurant is an indoor piazza of sorts and we swooned over small plates of dizzying flavor combinations: chicken with figs, lilliputian Philly cheesesteaks, green asparagus tempura romesco, American caviar cones, bagel and lox cones, cotton candy foie gras, sweet potato chips with yogurt, tamarind, star anise, olives both modern and traditional that were solid and liquid at the same time and exploded in your mouth, tuna ceviche, and avocado roll with jicama, micro cilantro and coconut dressing. We screamed for more of and we gobbled up tiny ripe Caprese cherry tomatoes—small bombs filled with liquid mozzarella, Norwegian lobster seaweed salad, and lastly, oysters with lemon. We wanted and got lollipops and a couple of bonbons for dessert. All with wonderful wines from an excellent list. *Ribeiro* wines, Spain's biggest white wine success story of recent years, are set to launch on the U.S. market in February—with the help of Chef Andrés. Andrés will introduce easy-drinking, indigenous varietals like *Treixadura*, *Torrontés*, *Loureira*, and *Godello* as well as the established *Albariño* to the U.S. market. *Ribeiro* wines are incredibly elegant and aromatic, truly the rising stars of white wines in Europe. Service at *The Bazaar* is friendly and crisp. The hotel is *Philippe Starck* at his whimsical best but not all fun and games: it is, at its heart, a serious hotel with beautiful rooms and fine service. A tempting menu of room options creates a customized experience in each of the 297 guest rooms and suites designed by Starck for *Cassina*, including seven lifestyle suites with personal gym equipment and 32 hypoallergenic Pure Rooms. *SLS* and *The Bazaar* are musts for visitors and local alike wanting to push the envelope and be indulged with romanticism and surprise. The bar attracts a collection of long-legged beauties and their swains and is highly recommended. *Ciel-Spa at SLS* is a Starck-designed dreamscape that emphasizes luxury in a soothing yet playful setting. The *SLS* is ideally situated at the crossroads of Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, a landmark of sleek sophistication, just steps from *The Beverly Center*, the sparkling storefronts of Rodeo Drive, and favorite celebrity haunts. *SLS Hotel and The Bazaar*, 465 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills. (310) 247-0400, www.sbe.com.

