



The Hot Corner

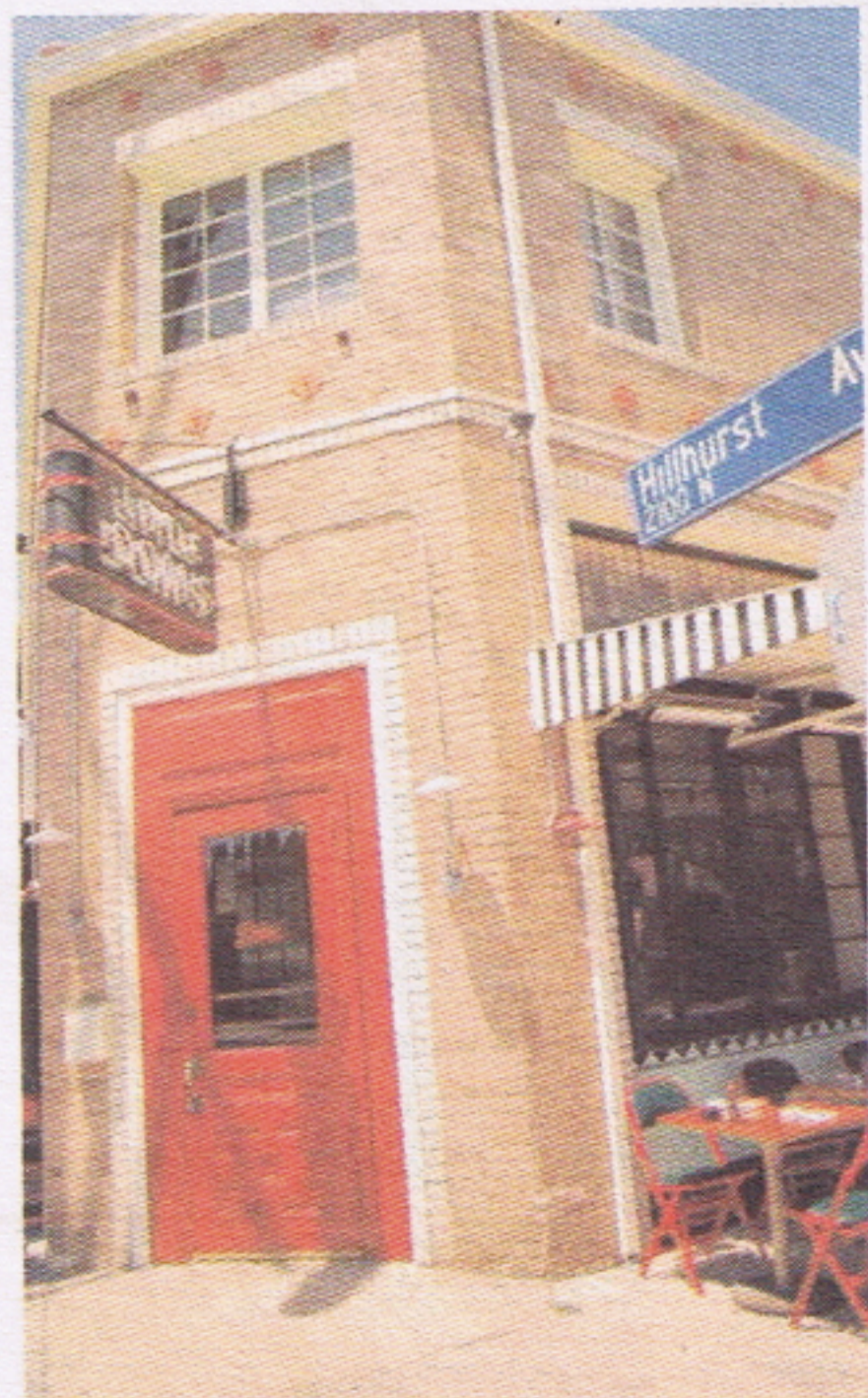
1ST AND BAILEY ST.

Where to eat Brandon Boudet's food

101 COFFEE SHOP
6145 FRANKLIN AVE.,
HOLLYWOOD,
(323) 467-1175

DOMINICK'S
8175 BEVERLY BLVD.,
WEST HOLLYWOOD,
(310) 652-2335

LITTLE DOM'S
2128 HILLHURST AVE.,
LOS FELIZ,
(323) 661-0055



Boyle Heights is burgeoning thanks to the Metro Gold Line expansion. Outside business-people are taking a wait-and-see approach with the neighborhood, but not East L.A. natives like Guillermo Uribe.

Uribe opened Eastside Luv Wine Bar y Queso to "have a spot that represents Chicanos in a creative way." The décor includes lowrider lounge chairs and custom "chandeliers." Uribe offers boutique wines from California and Latin America, homemade sangria, plenty of queso (cheese) and the "cheladito" — Mexican beer mixed with lime, salt and chile. Uribe has big hopes for Boyle Heights, saying, "It could be our Chinatown or Little Tokyo."

Julie Rebas debuted La Mano y El Corazón Café in February and found success with Metro workers thanks to her macrobiotic Mexican food made with "the hand and the heart." The house specialty pairs breaded chicken, ham and cheese with spicy spaghetti. Fresh juices include the Verde Via, a blend of lime, pear and pineapple that "helps with circulation of the blood."

Juan Romero grew up a block from the corner and plans to open Primera Taza coffeehouse this month, offering "quality coffee, one taza (cup) at a time." The logo is a mariachi kiosk, in tribute to nearby Mariachi Plaza.

Not every dining option was inspired by the Gold Line expansion. Jose Rodriguez and wife Aurora opened La Serenata de Garibaldi in 1985. The upscale Mexican restaurant specializes in seasonal seafood dishes like Camarones Isla Mujeres, shrimp bathed in white wine cream sauce, named for a Mexican island.

— Joshua Lurie

Eastside Luv Wine Bar y Queso
1835 E. 1st St., Boyle Heights
(323) 262-7442

La Mano y El Corazón Café
1818 E. 1st St., Boyle Heights
(323) 269-2887

La Serenata de Garibaldi
1842 E. 1st St., Boyle Heights
(323) 265-2887