

# The Hot Corner

Verdugo Rd. & Sunview Dr.



With the Hollywood crowd moving north to nest, this previously sleepy corner on the edge of Montrose has attracted talented chefs whose project is to prevent hungry locals from traveling back down the hill.

Chef Nadav Bashan and his wife Romy opened their Mediterranean restaurant in the former Bistro Verdu space last September. The Eagle Rockers scored the space after scouring Craigslist. Romy runs the front of the house. Providence veteran Nadav is drawing gastronomists from Silver Lake and Echo Park with seasonal dishes like braised pork belly with cranberry beans and mussels, and seared barramundi with shrimp, chorizo and Jerusalem artichokes.

Michael Ruiz, former chef/owner of Bistro Verdu, resurfaced in December with Ingredients, a rustic European-style specialty store focusing on cheeses, charcuterie, oils and spices. Thursday nights, he hosts cheese-tastings and multi-course dinners. Weekends bring market-driven small bites, like porter-

braised short ribs and blue cheese-stuffed strawberries with olive pesto. This summer, Ruiz will add a tasting room and begin growing ingredients in a back garden.

Rosso Wine Shop owner Jeff Zimmitti discovered the corner while apprenticing for Ruiz at Bistro Verdu, and opened down the block in August 2006. His boutique wine shop specializes in value wines from France, Italy and Spain. Friday and Saturday nights, Rosso offers three glasses for only \$10, including cheeses and "goodies" from Ingredients.

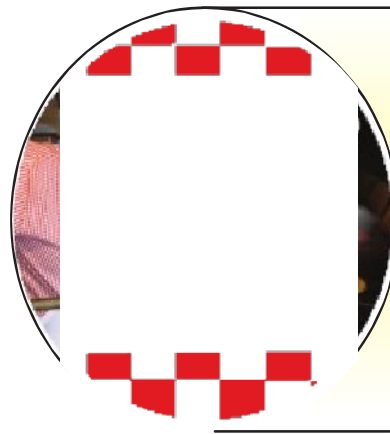
Not every local business is freshly minted. Francisco Jimenez and wife Patricia opened La Cabañita in 1989. The "little cabin" sports a colorful mural depicting iconic Mexican images, like ancient Aztecs and Popocatepetl, the "Smoking Mountain." Specialties include pork chops baked in a silky pasilla chile sauce, and Poblano peppers stuffed with ground chicken, almonds and raisins.

**Bashan**  
3459 N. Verdugo Rd.,  
Glendale, (818) 541-1532.

**Ingredients**  
3521 N. Verdugo Rd.,  
Glendale, (818) 249-4971.

**La Cabañita**  
3447 N. Verdugo Rd.,  
Glendale, (818) 957-2711.

**Rosso Wine Shop**  
3459 1/2 N. Verdugo Rd.,  
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