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The Abbey

To celebrate same-sex marriages in California the Abbey is offering a \$24 two-tiered cake topped with two tuxedos or two pairs of red lips.

THE LIST

Critic's Preview and Hot Dish

Your weekly serving of restaurant and food news you can use.

June 26, 2008

Critic's Preview
S. Irene Virbila Times Restaurant Critic

Cicchetti at All' Angelo Stefano Ongaro at All' Angelo is a native of Venice and nudges his 2-year-old Italian restaurant in the direction of small plates with a new *cicchetti* menu served in addition to the regular menu. *Cicchetti*, for the uninitiated, are little bites of seafood, cheese or whatever, served in wine bars in Venice. The *cicchetti* menu from chef and partner Mirko Paderno will change weekly, but here's some examples from his first offering: fritto misto, octopus salad with

celery and *bottarga*, Venetian-style shrimp in paprika sauce, sausage and peppers with black cabbage. *Cicchetti* served Mon.-Fri. (in addition to regular menu); \$9 to \$12 each. 7166 Melrose Ave., L.A.; (323) 933-9540; [www.allangelo.com](#)

Barrel Malibu This "bar and playground for adult wine lovers" is now hosting karaoke every Wednesday night starting at 9:30. With 100 wines by the glass, plus cheeses and charcuterie from the Cheese Store of Beverly Hills, the newish Malibu wine bar is ready for some action. And with a "self service adult wine arcade" of wines dispensed by the ounce, nobody need feel shy. If you don't want to sing, make merry by tasting your way through boutique wines from all over the world. The latest releases from Screaming Eagle, Harlan, Kistler or Sine Qua Non are offered in a rotated lineup. In addition to the self-service enomatic wine storage system, Barrel Malibu has a back bar that pours by the glass the traditional way. The blackboard lists the daily specials. From \$1 to \$120 for 1-ounce tastes. Open daily from 3 p.m. to late. **23715 Malibu Road, (310) 456-8777; [www.barrelmalibu.com](#)**

Din Tai Fung Dumpling House Commune with the plants at the 127-acre Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden in Arcadia and then repair to Din Tai Fung down the street for luscious steamed dumplings served from bamboo steamers. There's inevitably a wait, but much less of one now that there is a second location around the corner. Try the steamed vegetable and pork dumplings, the classic *siu mai* and the wonderful soup dumplings. **1108 S. Baldwin Ave. and 1088 S. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia; (626) 574-7068 and (626) 446-8588; [www.dintaifungusa.com](#)**

HOT DISH: THIS WEEK
By Jessica Gelt

Kickoff Party for Levitt Pavilion, MacArthur Park The summer concert series at the newly restored band shell in MacArthur park is poised to enter its second season. To celebrate, the community is coming together at the historic Park Plaza Hotel next to the park to eat, drink and generally feel good about the strides this historic neighborhood has taken to become a safer, more inviting place. Chichen Itza chef Gilberto Cetina is creating the menu for the event and La Fonda, which stages mariachi dinner shows, will provide desserts. There will also be an open bar featuring Sauza tequila and gift bags provided by Smashbox Cosmetics. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thu., \$25 at the door or at [www.levittla.com](#). **607 S. Park View St., L.A., (213) 384-5701**

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