

French all the way

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By Dr. Ink

Several months after the abrupt closing of Croce's Park West last year, restaurateur Garo Minassian moved in to open Parc Bistro-Brasserie in its place.

The Montreal native, who previously operated Harry's Bar and American Grill in La Jolla, transformed the space into a Parisian-style lounge in the front, and a white-linen dining room in the back. The redesign carries an airy feel with unmistakable European charm.



Syrah-Grenache blend from southern Rhone

The wine I chose, **Bonpas Syrah-Grenache** from France's southern Rhone region, was medium-bodied and offered distinct tannins on the finish — exactly what I expected from this varietal blend.

Priced during happy hour at only \$6 for a sturdy pour, it's the kind of vino you can drink all night or pair with a solid French meal of coq au vin or beef bourguignon.

I drank it with French onion soup (\$7), an item on the discounted food menu that also includes escargot, cheddar sliders with pomme frites, smoked salmon rillettes, and a tempting croque Monsieur sandwich I spied upon when served to a patron at the bar.