

ALFRESCO APPETITES

SOME OF THE BEST
OUTDOOR
RESTAURANTS IN L.A.

BY ERIC ROSEN

ONE OF THE BEST PARTS ABOUT LIVING IN LOS ANGELES IS THE CITY'S NEAR-PERFECT WEATHER. This meteorological marvel makes it possible to dine alfresco all year round. While that was simply a pleasant perk in the past, these days, it is exactly what makes eating out at restaurants even possible. So, forget looking up recipes and doing the dishes by hand. Take a night off by taking a night out at one of these restaurants with fabulous (and socially distanced) outdoor dining spaces.

ALTA ADAMS

We all could use a little comfort food these days, which makes Chef Keith Corbin's soulful selection of savorys even more mouthwatering. Reserve a place out on the leafy patio and dig into down-home delicacies like pimento dip with crackers and pickled veggies, black-eyed pea fritters with spicy herb sauce, creamy shrimp and grits, and the famous fried chicken with Fresno hot sauce. End supper sweetly with either the chocolate bread pudding with bourbon-vanilla sauce or banana pudding.

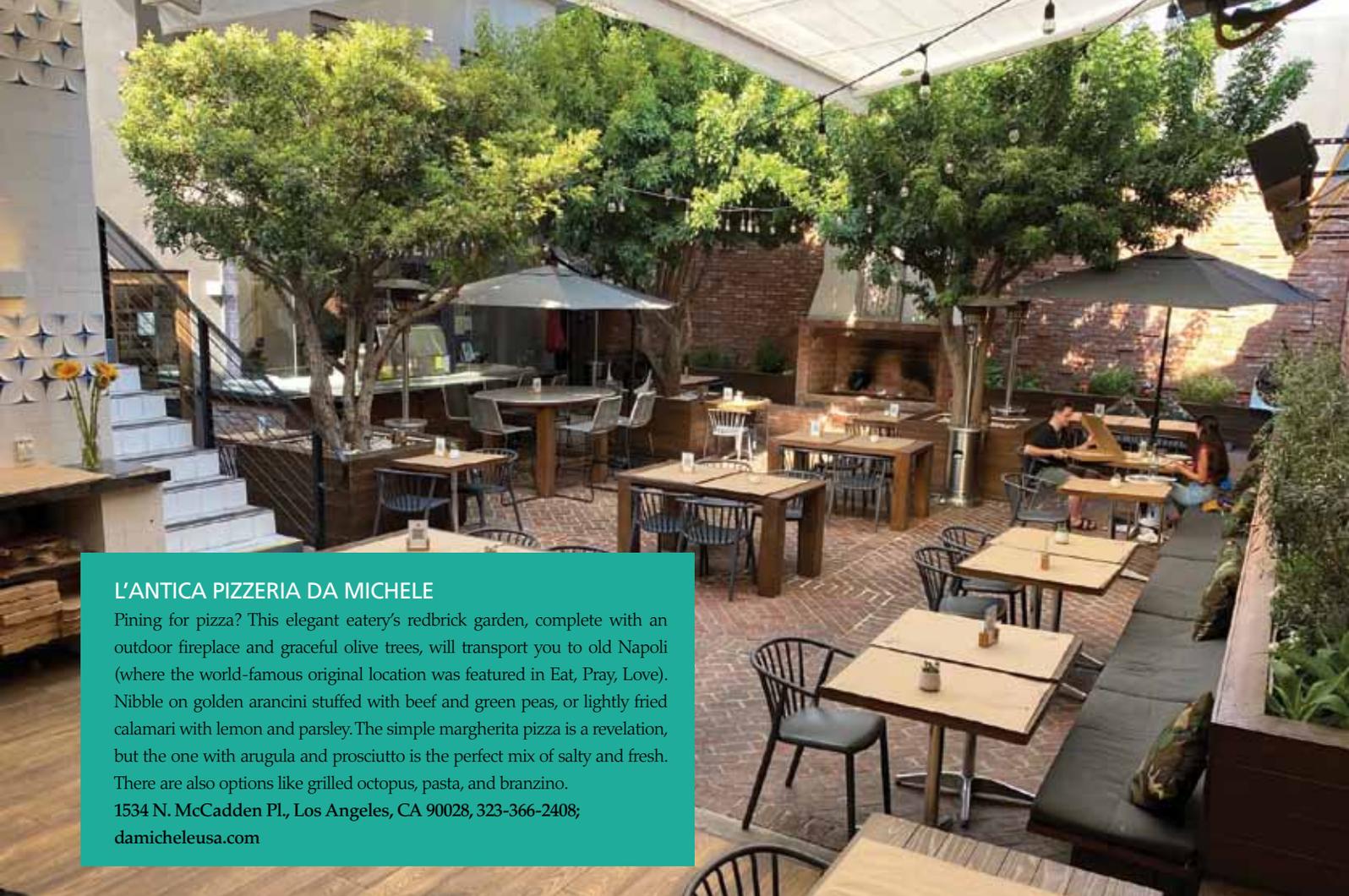
5359 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 323-571-4999; altaadams.com



CARAVAN SWIM CLUB

The newly opened Hotel June fields not one, but two outdoor decks at its poolside dining outlet, Caravan Swim Club. Chef Steve Livigni, from Scopa Italian Roots and Dama, showcases the bounty of California's coast – including Baja – with creative dishes like luscious Santa Barbara sea urchin tostadas, and charred beet salad with nectarine, arugula, hazelnut, olive oil, and a dash of sea salt. Don't forget to check out the beverage menu, which highlights natural and biodynamic wines, plus over 100 agave spirits.

8639 Lincoln Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045, 310-645-0400; thehoteljune.com



L'ANTICA PIZZERIA DA MICHELE

Pining for pizza? This elegant eatery's redbrick garden, complete with an outdoor fireplace and graceful olive trees, will transport you to old Napoli (where the world-famous original location was featured in *Eat, Pray, Love*). Nibble on golden arancini stuffed with beef and green peas, or lightly fried calamari with lemon and parsley. The simple margherita pizza is a revelation, but the one with arugula and prosciutto is the perfect mix of salty and fresh. There are also options like grilled octopus, pasta, and branzino.

1534 N. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90028, 323-366-2408;
damicheleusa.com



CASSIA

This Santa Monica mainstay always had a beautiful patio, but it has transformed its valet parking lot into an additional fresh-air venue with spaced-out seating, potted plants, and strings of bistro lights overhead. Vietnamese prawns garnished with Fresno chilies, garlic and hot sauce are a great way to start but be sure to try the rich Malaysian-style beef rendang in coconut curry with spicy sambal, kaffir lime, peanuts and jasmine rice.

1314 7th St., Santa Monica, CA
90401, 310-3939-6699; cassiala.com

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• (BELOW) CASSIA PHOTO BY LINDSEY HUITTNER



NOBU MALIBU

There's nothing quite like eating sushi right on the sea, and nowhere better to do it in Los Angeles than on Nobu Malibu's open-air deck, with the waves crashing underneath. Snag an ocean-facing booth, then tuck into classics like the Nobu tiradito of whitefish sashimi dusted with black sea salt, Peruvian red rocotto chili, cilantro, and a squeeze of lemon juice, or the black cod with miso.

22706 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90265, 310-317-9140; noburestaurants.com

LE PETIT BELVEDERE AT THE PENINSULA BEVERLY HILLS

This Beverly Hills grande dame puts a delicious California twist on French flavors at its new patio brasserie. Reserve a table by the fountain then prepare for familiar yet creative dishes like crab croquette salad, moules frites in white-wine parsley broth, juicy steak au poivre, and roasted chicken crepes with wild mushroom and fromage blanc, all prepared for pairing with a variety of French wines and classic cocktails.

9228 Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90212, 310-975-2736; peninsula.com



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LAS PALMAS AT E.P. & L.P.

This West Hollywood hotspot already boasted one of the most fashionable rooftops in town, but just upped the cool factor by launching a Tulum-inspired pop-up with a distilled beach bar vibe right in the heart of the city. Think wicker rocking chairs, banana palms, and plenty of open space. Start with carne asada skewers or ahi tuna tartare crostini with kimchi relish, then munch on curried cauliflower tacos with pickled onions. The Tulum Nights cocktail with Grey Goose, chartreuse, lime and pineapple is a refreshing standout. L.P. is also open and still serving favorites like the crab curry bun with mustard seed pickles and hot sauce, and a grilled lobster quesadilla.

603 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069, 310-855-9955; eplosangeles.com



VERANDA AL FRESCO

The historic Hotel Figueroa's new outdoor dining venue channels an Acapulco poolside vibe, though chef Adrian Garcia's menu is more an homage to Mexico City cuisine with dishes like crispy barramundi tacos, squash blossom quesadillas, and grilled salmon bowls over rice with black beans, sautéed peppers and corn, cotija cheese and pico de gallo. If the summer heat persists, the guava margarita with fresh lime and 100% Blue Agave Blanco tequila should keep you cool.

939 S. Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90015, 213-660-3032; hotelfigueroa.com

THIS PAGE (ABOVE) LAS PALMAS AT E.P. & L.P. PHOTO BY DAVID HIGGS
• (BELOW) PHOTO COURTESY OF VERANDA AL FRESCO AT HOTEL FIGUEROA