

FOODWINEART™

LOS ANGELES

BY ELLIOT M. SHIRWO

JANUARY + 10

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FOOD

CENTER OF HOME IN DOWNTOWN

107 WEST 9TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015, AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE HISTORIC ORPHEUM THEATRE, RESIDES A PLACE THAT FEELS LIKE HOME. FOR CHEF/OWNER NATALIA PEREIRA, THIS IS NOT ONLY HER HOME AWAY FROM HER HOME IN MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL BUT ALSO HER DREAM COME TRUE. THREE YEARS AGO, A GENEROUS SPIRIT BESTOWED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NATALIA TO OPEN A RESTAURANT SO SHE CAN SHARE THE LOVE OF HER MOTHER'S NATIVE RECIPES WITH ALL OF US THAT LOVE FOOD AND SHARING IT WITH THOSE WE LOVE.

APPARENTLY, OTHERS HAVE DISCOVERED THIS SOULFUL COMFORT FOOD BEFORE ME AND MY DEAR FRIEND STUMBLED ACROSS IT THE EVENING OF THE ZERO 7 CONCERT ON DECEMBER 16, 2009. I'VE HEARD THAT CHEF ALICE WATERS HAD DINED HERE A FEW TIMES. IN THE RESTROOM, YOU WILL FIND ALICE WATER'S BOOK, EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD, SIGNED TO NATALIA, "WITH ADMIRATION." I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT GIADA DE LAURENTIIS OF THE FOODTV NETWORK CONSIDERS WOODSPOON ONE OF HER FAVORITE SPOTS AND WILL BE FEATURING THIS RESTAURANT IN AN UPCOMING SHOW.

NATALIA'S RESTAURANT IS WOODSPOON, NAMED ARBITRARILY WHEN SHE SAW A PIECE OF WOOD AND A SPOON BEFORE HER. START OFF YOUR MEAL WITH A MIXED PLATE OF TRADITIONAL, BRAZILIAN SMALL PLATES OF FRIED DELICIOUSNESS: COXINHA (BRAZIL'S MOST POPULAR STREET FOOD MADE WITH CHICKEN), POTATO CROQUETTE, PORTUGUESE CROQUETTE MADE WITH SALTED COD, PASTEL PORTUGUESE DUMPLING STUFFED WITH SHRIMP, COCONUT

SAUCE, AND KIBE MADE WITH BULGUR WHEAT, MINT AND GROUND BEEF.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE HOME-INSPIRED SIDES DISHES, ESPECIALLY THE JULIENNED COLLARD GREENS, BRAZILIAN SAUSAGE AND YAM FRIES. ONE OF NATALIA'S FAVORITE CHILDHOOD DISHES THAT HER MOTHER MADE FROM LEFTOVERS IS A BRAZILIAN CHICKEN POT PIE. IT WILL BRING YOU BACK HOME. OTHER FAVORITES TO INDULGE IN ARE THE PORK BURGER WITH ROASTED CABBAGE AND ONION ON POTATO BREAD AND THE CALABREZA SALAD.

ON TOP OF THE OTHER DISHES ON THE MENU, NATALIA PRODUCES A SPECIAL MENU ON SATURDAYS INSPIRED BY A DIFFERENT COUNTRY EVERY WEEK. SHE MAKES HER OWN DESSERTS, INCLUDING WARM COCONUT MACAROONS, CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES AND OTHERS THAT I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY.

FOR LIBATIONS, YOU MUST ORDER A CARAFE OF SANGRIA, A SPECIAL BLEND OF FLAVORS BALANCED BY SPICES (I.E., BLACK PEPPER, CLOVE), FRESH BERRIES AND RED WINE.

DESPITE HER ORPHAN PAST, NATALIA HAS FOUND HER HOME AGAIN AS I DID WHEN I SHARED GREAT FOOD WITH A GREAT FRIEND.

WOODSPOON, 107 WEST 9TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015, TELEPHONE: (213) 629-1765, OPEN TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY FOR LUNCH AND DINNER.

PANDORA'S BOX – MCCALL'S MEAT AND FISH CO.

HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM, CHEFS NATHAN MCCALL (SONA, ARZAK, RESTAURANT DANIEL) AND KAREN YOO (CAMPANILE, SONA, RESTAURANT DANIEL), WILL BE OPENING THEIR MEAT AND FISH MARKET IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN LOS FELIZ. THE FINEST QUALITY MEAT AND FISH WILL FINALLY BE AVAILABLE ON THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN, ONLY SOURCING MEAT (I.E., CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF, BERKSHIRE PORK AND LOCALLY RAISED POULTRY) FROM TRADITIONAL FARMS WHERE ANIMALS ARE NATURALLY AND HUMANELY RAISED ON THE BEST FEED WITHOUT HORMONES OR CHEMICAL ENHANCEMENTS AND FISH THAT IS WILD CAUGHT OR RESPONSIBLY FARM RAISED. MCCALL'S WILL ALSO HAVE CHALKBOARD SPECIALS EACH DAY WITH UNIQUE CUTS, SUCH AS DUCK, SQUAB, RABBIT AND HOUSE MADE SAUSAGES. NEVER WILL THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN BE THE SAME. MCCALL'S IS LOCATED AT 2117 HILLHURST AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90027. FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.MCCALLSMEATANDFISH.COM.

WINE

GRAND CRU

THE UNION DES GRANDS CRUS BORDEAUX TASTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010 FROM 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. AT THE ANNEX AT HOLLYWOOD AND HIGHLAND, 6801 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD, 90028. FOR MORE INFO, GO TO WWW.WALLYWINE.COM.

ART

FOODWINEART™ CALENDAR

FEATURED FOODWINEART EVENTS

THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES

MARTIN SHEEN, FRANCES CONROY AND BRIAN GERAGHTY STAR IN THE PULITZER PRIZE AND TONY AWARD-WINNING THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES AT THE MARK TAPER THEATRE IN DOWNTOWN FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2010 THRU MARCH 21, 2010. NEIL PEPE DIRECTS THIS COMPELLING FAMILY DRAMA BY FRANK D. GILROY.

THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES

ANNETTE BENING, DAVID ARQUETTE, MIREILLE ENOS, JULIAN SANDS, JOSH STAMBERG AND MERRITT WEVER STAR IN JOANNA MURRAY-SMITH'S THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES, DIRECTED BY RANDALL ARNEY AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE IN WESTWOOD VILLAGE FROM FEBRUARY 2 THRU MARCH 14, 2010.

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