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Mattie J. Bekink Consultant, writer, mother, dweller in possibility and hope A Jewelry Brand Just

Threw The Best Shade At

Ivanka Trump Simone Biles Pulls The Perfect Face When Bob

Costas Says She Just **Became Famous** 

## 'Food Lovers' Guide To Los Angeles' Could Convince You To Stop Yelping ① 12/13/2013 01:18 pm ET | Updated Jan 23, 2014

WHAT'S WORKING

Anna Almendrala 💟

Healthy Living Editor

What do you want to do for dinner tonight?

review sites like Yelp. But Los Angeles food blogger Cathy Chaplin is hoping to convince Angelenos to go analog with her new, softcover guidebook Food Lovers' Guide to Los Angeles.

If you're looking for something new, chances are you'll turn to user-



chefs.

below].

LOSANGELES

gastronomyblog.com since 2006. Last summer, inspired by the book *Hungry For Paris*, she spent four

documenting her culinary adventures in LA on her site

And you can trust Chaplin, a Pasadena-based writer who has been

months (and her entire book advance) eating at more than 300 restaurants to create a list of LA's most essential, drive-worthy restaurants, markets and food neighborhoods. The book is also a guide to LA's foodie scene, complete with a calendar of food festivals, list of must-follow food writers and recipes from celebrated

To give HuffPost readers a preview of her book, Chaplin has picked

five reviews that showcase the best of LA's restaurant scene [see

"These are the kinds of places that I love about LA — they are small, family-owned and have extraordinarily passionate people behind the stove," said Chaplin. "It's just really good food in places where you'll feel comfortable going into and places that do what they do very well the best in their class." Chaplin's book comes out Dec. 17, and she hopes it'll earn a coveted

spot in your car's glove compartment. Mom's Burgers

Photo by Cathy Chaplin

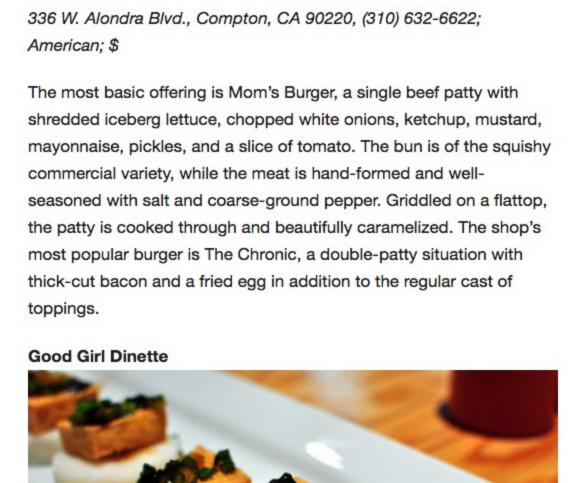


Photo by Cathy Chaplin

mushrooms or chicken, carrots, and glass noodles, the rolls are fried

to order and beautifully blistered. Whether eating them straight up or

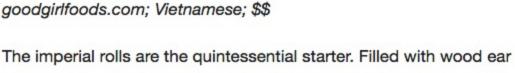
accompanying vinaigrette for extra pow. Another winning starter is

cakes. Drizzled in a mixture of scallions, oil, and fish sauce, the tofu is

the deep-fried tofu slabs perched atop carefully constructed rice

110 N. Avenue 56, Los Angeles, CA 90042, (323) 257-8980,

wrapped in lettuce leaves, make sure to dunk 'em in the



transformed into an umamified raft.

Lark Cake Shop

richness.

\$



A dozen different creations, including Stacey's Old-Fashioned

Coconut Cake (coconut cake with cream cheese icing and coconut

shavings) and the Berry Shortcake (white cake layered with fresh

all. The Old-Fashioned Ice Box Cake, seven layers of chocolate

wafers and fluffy whipped cream, is a tall stack of dear sweet

berries, pastry cream, and whipped cream), are baked fresh every

day, ready to be personalized and picked up for backyard birthdays and celebrations of all sorts. The best cake of all is barely a cake at

Nem Nuong Ninh Hoa

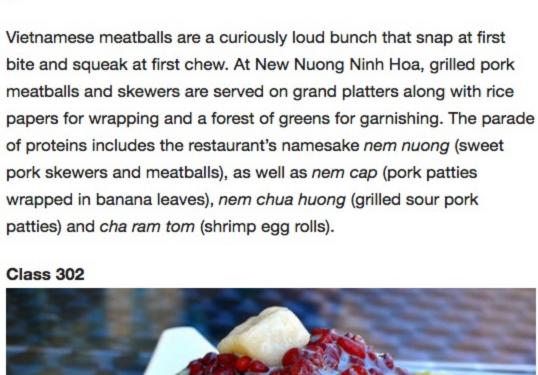


Photo by Cathy Chaplin

9016 Mission Dr., Rosemead, CA 91770, (626) 286-3370; Vietnamese;



unique ribbonlike texture that is achieved by freezing huge chunks of

machinery. The resulting sheets of snow are gloriously creamy and

topped with red beans, mochi, and condensed milk is perfectly

tart and refreshing as they come. The most decadent dish is the

caramel pudding shaved snow, which is doused with sweetened

CORRECTION: A previous version of this article quoted Chaplin as

saying that restaurants pay Zagat to review them. This is not the case.

dissolve ever so quickly on the tongue. The green-tea flavored snow

balanced, while the mango snow with fresh mangoes and mochi is as

flavored water and milk and then shaving it using heavy-duty

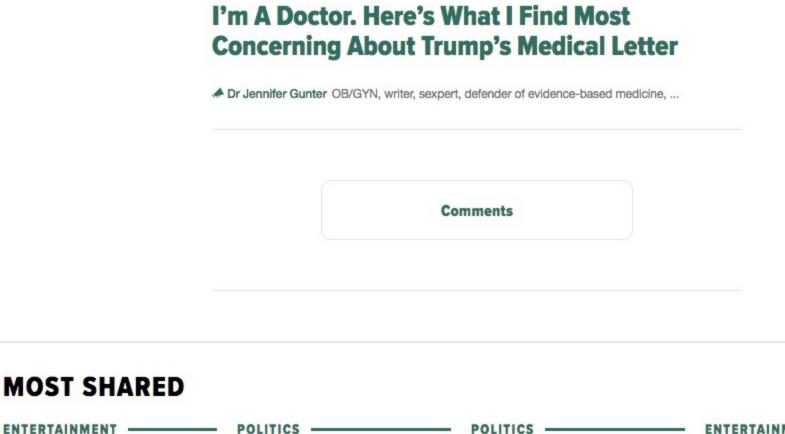
[To browse celeb-frequented restaurants in other cities, check out the rest of Urbanspoon's list.]

condensed milk and caramel syrup.

Where To Spot A Celeb

LA Restaurants

Chateau



Earlier on HuffPost:

LA Around Town Suggest a correction

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