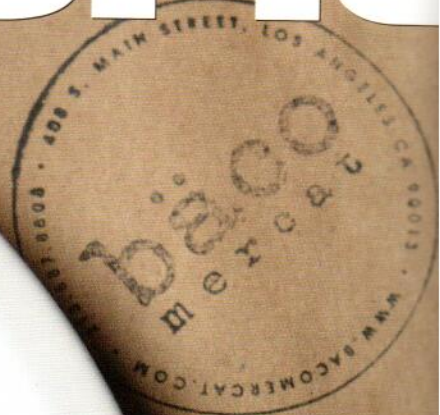


Angeleno

THE 10TH ANNUAL RESTAURANT ISSUE

King of the Gastronomical Guard
Tasty Ice Creams
Wood-Inspired Flavors in Venice
Wood's New Queen of Cuisine
Wood-Fired Stoves in Sonoma



Contributors

July 2012



1. When not typing up a story, writer **Jennifer Thornton** volunteers at an arts therapy camp for terminally ill children and their families. For this month's Radar Weekender, the Northern California native traveled to Sonoma to report on Ramekins Culinary School, Events & Inn. "The experience was rich and interactive," she says. "It inspired me to be more adventurous and creative in the kitchen. So long, Crock-Pot!" Thornton has also contributed to *Sunset* magazine.

2. Writer **Carita Rizzo** is no stranger to interviewing celebrities. As an entertainment reporter, Rizzo has fine-tuned her interviewing chops and this month she used them for Radar Star subject Luke Kirby. "Based on his roles I expected a large personality, but he was much quieter and more thoughtful than I anticipated," she says. "And when he ruefully admitted he enjoys McDonald's and Popeyes, it just made me like him that much more!" The L.A.-based writer has worked with *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, *TV Guide* and *Variety*.

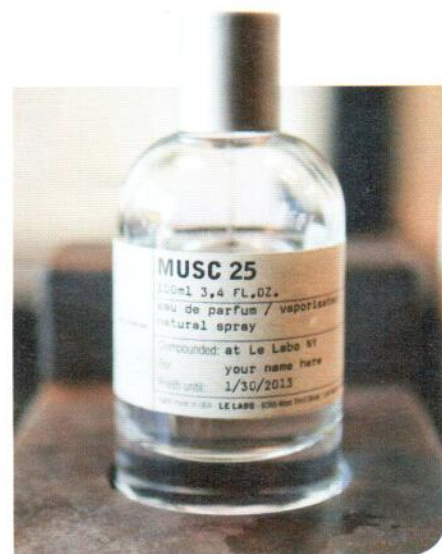
3. Photographer **Andrea Bricco** shot the city's best eats for *Angeleno's* 10th annual Restaurant Issue. Bricco's favorite part of the shoot? "I really loved the portraits I got of (chef and owner) Josef Centeno of Baco Mercat. The dishes he had me try were delicious," she exclaims. Bricco, who is based in downtown L.A., has contributed to *GQ*, *Urbanite Magazine* and *Art Culinare*.

4. Writing about beauty is a passion for **Alexis Johnson**, the co-founder of Beauty Bender. She interviewed fragrance industry game-changers Alexandra Balahoutis of Strange Invisible Perfumes and Fabrice Penot

of Le Labo in this month's Radar Beauty. "It's refreshing, inspiring and highly unusual to see two totally different creatives in the same industry working in conjunction—literally side by side," she says of their partnership, the Perfume Commune. Johnson is a former editor of *The Rundown L.A.* and has contributed to various publications including *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Us Weekly* and *Style Section L.A.*

5. **Andrew Myers** has written and edited for numerous publications and websites, including *Robb Report*, *Town & Country*, *Travel + Leisure*, *L.A. Times* and *The Faster Times*—not to mention shelter magazines, men's magazines and luxury lifestyle magazines. He's worked for enough mags to fill attics, gyms and the waiting rooms of many a plastic surgeon in Beverly Hills. In this month's Look Who's Talking, Myers talks with young entrepreneur and Kitchit co-founder Brendan Marshall. "What I found inspiring about him is his passion for what he's doing. He's simply committing to what he wants to do wholeheartedly," says Myers.

6. **Abigail Stone** is a lifestyle and travel writer based in Los Angeles. A native New Yorker, she consoles herself with drives to the San Gabriel Valley for Chinese food when she feels homesick. For this month's Shop Talk column, Stone highlights the new La Brea boutique Weekend Lovers. "I've been waiting for something to explode on La Brea for a long time. Now, with the newly opened or up-and-coming Umami Burger, Ace Museum, Graffiti, Sycamore Kitchen and Feal Mor, it looks like that may finally happen!" Stone writes regularly for *Apartment Therapy*. You can also find her daily on her own blog, *Beauty in the Everyday*.



New Notes

Strange Invisible Perfumes and Le Labo pair up to create a dreamy olfactory compound on Abbot Kinney.

| By Alexis Johnson | Photography by Melissa Valladares |

For nearly a decade, if you wanted to find a new fragrance in Venice, you sought out Alexandra Balahoutis, founder of Strange Invisible Perfumes. She was the sole scent proprietor on Abbot Kinney. But now the L.A. native has company. She's launched a perfume commune of sorts with her new next-door neighbor, New York-based perfumery Le Labo. A longstanding friendship with Le Labo co-founder Fabrice Penot and a shared philosophy on fragrance prompted Balahoutis, who owns the building they now share, to recruit Le Labo as a neighbor. "It seems counterintuitive, but I believe—and so does Fabrice—in the idea of abundance and choice. We wanted to bring new attention to perfumeries and create a mini perfume district," says Balahoutis.

For Penot, Abbot Kinney was a dream location. "It is most likely the coolest street in America right now," he says. But he wanted Balahoutis' blessing beforehand because of their friendship. "She blew my mind by proposing the idea of us being neighbors and collaborating. That's how the idea of a perfume commune was born."

The two have vastly different approaches to the art: Balahoutis focuses on natural, organic and wild-crafted



VERY VENICE

Clockwise from left: An interior at Le Labo; Le Labo's Musc 25; Le Labo fragrances; Strange Invisible Perfumes' array of scents



essences she grows on her family's estates, while Penot and partner Edouard Roschi create fragrances that are blended individually by hand at the time of purchase. The two brands work in collaboration, and shop girls and guys for Le Labo and Strange Invisible Perfumes are educated in the scents of both lines and can speak to the individual merits of each. Fragrance is such a personal expression, and finding one's signature scent involves lots of trial and error. Penot says that he and his neighbor send their devoted fans back and forth between the shops, depending on what they like. "The most important thing is that the people who come here remember their visit as something they never experienced before." 1138 and 1138 1/2 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, siperfumes.com, lelabofragrances.com