



TEST WITH
CHEF LAURENT
TOURONDEL AND CHEF 'PHET' SCHWADER

LAURENT AND HIS WIFE, AIDA, VISIT HOLLYWOOD



welcome!

love living in New York City. I think about all the visitors who will see our city over the next few months with its enchanting decorations and festive spirit, and I can't think of a better place to celebrate the holidays.

In this issue, you'll take a peek behind the design inspiration at my latest restaurant in Sag Harbor, eLTacobar. Make some of our dishes at home, and try your hand at our tequila cocktails. I am constantly inspired by flavors and spices from around the world. This relaxed interpretation of Latin cuisine unfolds in a lively setting with a great vibe.

Check out the places I ate at during a recent visit to Los Angeles, and learn a little about our restaurant managers at L'Amico and Skirt Steak, Omar Diouf and Savoth Vann, who will always ensure your time at our tables is well spent. My good friend Chef "Phet" Schwader (Khe-Yo and Dhom) came by for a blind taste test, and we enjoyed a wonderful Laotian chicken dish together.

This season, remember not to take the ordinary for granted. Take a walk in Central Park on a snowy day, or savor a great meal with friends and family. Come visit us!



ELTACOBAR DESIGN

A Peek Inside Sag Harbor's Latest Hotspot

ON THE PLATE Mexican Flavors

BLIND TASTE TEST

Chef Laurent Tourondel + Chef 'Phet' Schwader

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CHEF TOURONDEL?

Dining in Los Angeles

MEET THE STAFF

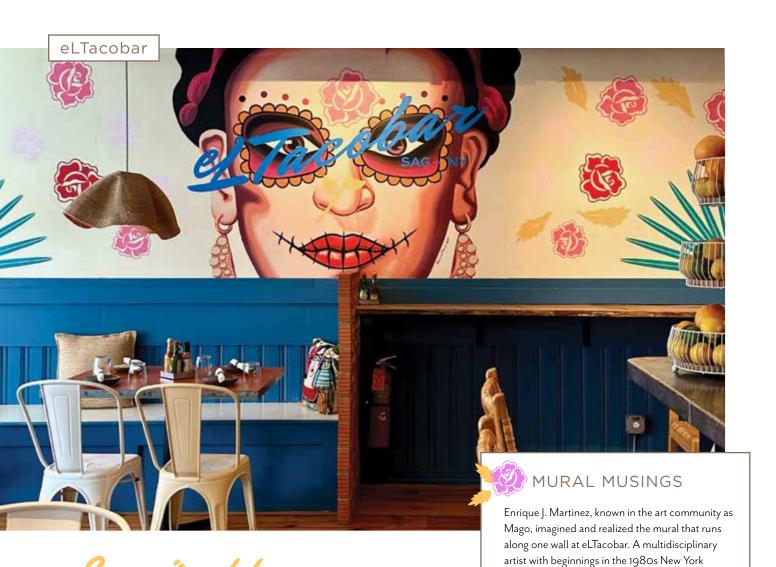
Our Restaurant Managers

BEHIND THE BAR

Tequila Cocktails to Sip and Savor

DISCOVER BACK BAR

Signature Cocktails and Curated Bites at this Hidden Gem



City street graffiti scene, Mago infused Mexican symbolism and culture into the piece along with a color-popping palette, working with Chef Laurent

Tourondel, whom he credits with being "an artist

The mural is populated with roses that Mago chose

to represent Mexican charisma and the passionate

emotions of love and fidelity. The agave planet also makes an appearance. "It is an integral part of

Mexican religion," said Mago, "a symbol of good

health, fertility, long life and dancing." The blue

agave plant is also where tequila comes from, an

installation, is an ode to the Mexican celebration

"This celebration includes the custom of ofrendas,

or offerings, which was appropriate for eLTacobar,

since food is a key part of the offering." Mago also

references Frida Kahlo: "A symbol of the strength

and beauty in all Mexican women. Her work was

other walls in the space are rose bushes over the

archways and snakes, symbolizing the earth.

also inspired by nature and artifacts in Mexico." On

of Dia de los Muertos — or the Day of the Dead.

organic tie-in to eL Tacobar's deep tequila list.

La Catrina, the woman who is central to the

himself and a big part of the creative process."

Inspired by Collins of the Collins o

Color calls out to you, even as you approach the restaurant from across the street, with a bright yellow and white-striped awning and striking azure blue lettering below it. "Chef Laurent Tourondel is really good with aesthetics, and he's not afraid of color," says designer Lucia Galeano of Studio Galeón. Galeano has worked with Tourondel on several of his restaurants and appreciates his eye for style and design.

"The idea was to take a palette of Mexican colors — such as blue, lime green, hot pink and fuschia — and blend them to become an expression of the Hamptons at the same time," she explains. "That way, you walk into a lively concept that is not completely Mexican but has hints of it." Much like the awning calls out classic Hamptons colors, so does the tile on the bar, with its blue and white diagonal pattern.

Galeano sourced many of the items from South America, including the masks, vintage terracotta pottery, pillows and candlesticks with beautiful red flowers all over them. "By tying the branding and the space together, you get a mix of contemporary modern with authentic touches."



▲ Mago's hand-painted bust of a bull is placed near the main entrance by design. "The bull has been a symbol of protection for Native American and Mexican tribes for centuries."



 The rose in the logo represents passion and fidelity. The color — rosa Mexicano, or Mexican pink — is widely seen in Mexican culture today as an element



◀ The blue and white diagonal Talavera tile on the bar is a subtle nod to the Hamptons' classic color combination.





▲ All sourced in South America, these fanciful masks are used in traditional dances, ceremonies, festivals and theater to help transform the performer into other characters.



AT YOUR SIDE, always.

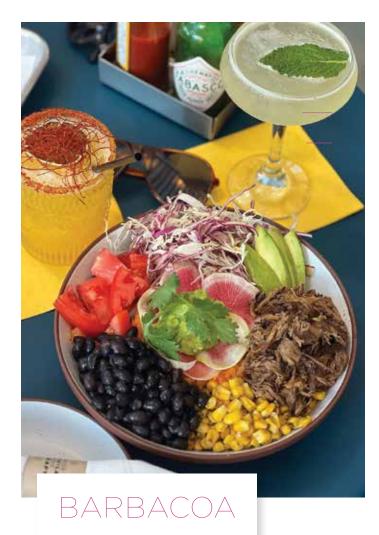
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Simple to make in your slow cooker, this recipe results in the most tender, flavorful, delicious barbacoa beef. Featured in our Mexican cowboy bowl with avocado. beans, corn, tomato and cabbage

INGREDIENTS

3 lbs beef chuck roast, fat trimmed and cut into 2-inch chunks 4 cloves garlic, minced

2 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, chopped One 4-oz can diced green chiles

1 small white onion, finely chopped

1/4 cup fresh lime juice 2 tbs apple cider vinegar

3 bay leaves

1 tbs ground cumin

1 tbs dried Mexican oregano (or standard dried oregano)

2 tsp fine sea salt

1 tsp freshly ground black pepper

1/4 tsp ground cloves 1/2 c beef stock or water

Combine all ingredients in the bowl of a slow cooker. Toss gently to combine. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours, on high for 3 to 4 hours or until the beef is tender and falls apart easily when shredded with a fork.

Using two forks, shred the beef into bitesize pieces inside of the slow cooker. Toss the beef with the juices, then cover and let the barbacoa beef soak up the juices for an extra 10 minutes. Remove the bay leaves.

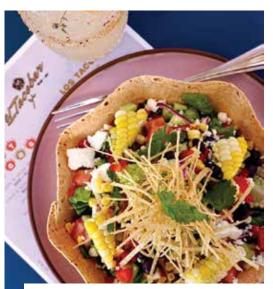
Use a pair of tongs or a slotted spoon to serve the barbacoa beef — and enjoy!

SERVING UP

Mexican Flavors

Recipes from the kitchen at





SALAD 'YUCATAN'

Hard-baked taco shells Romaine, chopped

Red and white cabbage, sliced

Corn, grilled

Tomato, chopped

Cucumber, diced Red bell peppers, sliced

Black beans, cooked Avocado, diced

Pepitas, roasted

Red onion, diced

Tortilla strips, fried

Queso fresco

Lime wedges Cilantro

Jalapeño-Lime Dressing (see recipe)

JALAPEÑO-LIME DRESSING

2 1/2 tbs jalapeños, chopped

1 tsp garlic, minced 6 1/2 tbs rice wine vinegar

1 tbs lime juice

1 tsp yuzu

1/2 c grapeseed oil

Salt and pepper to taste 1 tsp mayonnaise

Blend everything but the mayo together. Mix in the mayo briefly at the end.

METHOD

Assemble ingredients in the taco shell. Add protein of choice. Drizzle dressing generously on top.



MEXICAN CHURROS

1 c water 1/4 lb butter 2 tbs sugar 1 tsp salt 1 c flour 1/4 tsp baking powder

Cinnamon sugar to coat

Spiced chocolate sauce (see recipe)

METHOD

Bring water to a simmer with the butter, sugar and salt.

Sift flour and baking powder, and mix into the water with a wooden spoon. Continue stirring until the dough is shiny and comes away from the sides of the pot.

Transfer to a mixer with the paddle attachment and beat in the eggs one at a time. Place in a piping bag with a large star tip.

Squeeze a 4-inch strip of dough into hot oil at 350°F. Repeat, frying 3 or 4 strips at a time.

Fry the churros, turning them once, until golden brown, about 2 minutes each side.

Transfer the cooked churros to a plate lined with paper towels to drain. When the churros are just cool enough to handle, roll them in the cinnamon sugar and serve them with warm spiced chocolate sauce.

SPICED CHOCOLATE SAUCE

2 tbs cornstarch

1/2 c heavy cream 2 1/2 tsp sugar

11/2 c milk

11/2 tsp spice mix of chili powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, ground cloves and whole star anise

Pinch of salt

15 oz 6% chocolate, broken into small pieces

Mix all ingredients except the chocolate in a pot and heat over medium-high heat until just bubbling, whisking occasionally. Remove from heat and discard any whole star anise.

Pour over chocolate pieces and let sit for 4 minutes without stirring.

Stir and serve warm.



CHICKEN AL PASTOR

Sheet pan chicken al pastor! Made with an earthy, citrusy and sweet al pastor marinade and baked on a sheet pan with pineapple until completely juicy and tender. Finish under the broiler for a craveable crisp and caramel finish. Great for chicken al pastor tacos (featured), burritos, burrito bowls, nachos and more.

11/2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs 1/2 yellow onion, thinly sliced Al pastor marinade (see recipe) 2 cups finely diced pineapple

AL PASTOR MARINADE

3 cloves garlic 2 to 3 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce

1/2 c orange juice

1 tbs apple cider vinegar

2 tbs brown sugar (or honey or agave)

1 tbs achiote paste

1 tbs ancho chili powder

1 tsp ground cumin 1 tsp dried oregano

11/2 tsp kosher salt

Add all ingredients to a blender. Blend until combined.

Add the chicken thighs and thinly sliced yellow onion to a large bowl. Pour al pastor marinade over the top and toss to combine. Marinate covered in the refrigerator for at least 6 hours or up to 3 days.

Preheat the oven to 425°F, arranging the oven racks such that one is in the center of the oven and one is 6 to 8 inches under the broil. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with foil for easy cleanup and set aside.

Transfer the marinated chicken and onions to the prepared baking sheet, draining any excess marinade. Add the diced pineapple to the baking sheet. Toss to combine with the chicken and onions, spooning extra al pastor marinade into the mix as necessary to coat the pineapple with the sauce. Bake on the center rack for 15 minutes. The chicken should be nearly cooked through.

Remove the chicken from the oven to chop, and preheat the broiler.

Transfer the chicken to a cutting board and carefully chop the chicken into bitesize pieces. Place the chopped chicken pastor back on the baking sheet

Place the baking sheet under the broiler. Broil 4 to 5 minutes, turning the pan halfway through, until the al pastor chicken is browned and slightly crisp.

Place the crispy chicken pastor in tortillas for tacos or a bowl with cilantro lime rice and black beans for burrito bowls, finishing with your favorite toppings of choice: Mexican crema, pickled red onions, freshly chopped cilantro, queso fresco or cheese of choice, salsa of choice and lime wedges.





Blind Taste Test

CHEF LAURENT TOURONDEL + CHEF SOULAYPHET SCHWADER

One of Chef Tourondel's favorite magazine features is to invite a chef to a friendly blind taste test. Chef Soulayphet "Phet" Schwader worked with Tourondel at BLT Prime in New York and later opened the BLT Steak in D.C. in 2006, serving as chef de cuisine at the heavily lauded restaurant.

Schwader was born in a small village outside of the capital of Laos, Vientiane, and grew up in the United States. His love for Southeast Asian–inspired dishes is evident in the menus at his restaurants Khe-Yo in Tribeca and Dhom in the East Village.

It was a bright, fall morning when the two chefs met at Skirt Steak to enjoy easy banter and taste ingredients. In a dining room replete with warm lighting, small ingredient containers vied for attention on a table. Chef Phet led a blindfolded Tourondel to his seat and proceeded to hand him spoonfuls of ingredients from a dish he would later prepare in the kitchen.



"We are in Asia today!" proclaimed Tourondel as he tasted and correctly identified cilantro, mint, kaffir lime leaf, fish sauce, chicken and sticky rice. The only ingredient he waffled on was the toasted rice kernels. Later, Chef Phet arranged the finished meal, a Laotian chicken and herb salad, in three separate vessels: chicken laap in one, a lemongrass sour soup in another and sticky rice in a small, round woven basket.





When the tables were turned, Chef Phet tasted the ingredients of a tuna crudo dish served with a caper aioli and Sorrento lemons. He correctly identified the olive oil, cornichons, capers, fennel pollen and egg yolk and whites. He did mistake the chives for parsley, and first guessed the protein was swordfish before tuna. "It's a lot harder than you might think with a blindfold on," Chef Phet said, as he struggled to identify oregano. "You need all your senses to make an informed decision!"



"Many of the countries surrounding Laos, such as Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, use similar ingredients in their cooking. It's even hard for me to distinguish between the food," Chef Phet admitted. "But you can tell by the combination of dishes served. For example, the Laos way is to eat chicken laap with the soup as well as the sticky rice."





PARADISE COVE BEACH CAFÉ, Malibu

An all-encompassing lunch menu sprinkled with nostalgia. Many iconic '60s beach movies and TV shows were filmed in this cove. #beachvibe! @paradisecovebeachcafe



Santa Monica Beach Venice Beach



deli, bakery, café and market with a charming patio. Great way to start your day! @gjustabakery





PIZZERIA BIANCO, Downtown LA

Downtown LA

Head downtown to the best pizza joint in Tinseltown from James Beard Awardwinning chef Chris Bianco. @pizzeriabianco



208 RODEO, Beverly Hills

See and be scene on Via Rodeo's cobblestone street. Chef Tourondel reconnected with the maître d' he worked with back in the day at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas @208rodeo





Urban design that sits on the beach. Breakfast will fill you with fantastic views. @thehuntleyhotel



A recent trip to Los Angeles had Chef Laurent Tourondel driving through the canyons, zipping up the Pacific Coast Highway and braving packed freeways as he criss-crossed the city, connecting with old acquaintances while sampling West Coast cuisine.



Fantastic food and great architecture, this Newport gem is modeled after classic American seafood houses. @gulfstreamnewportbeach

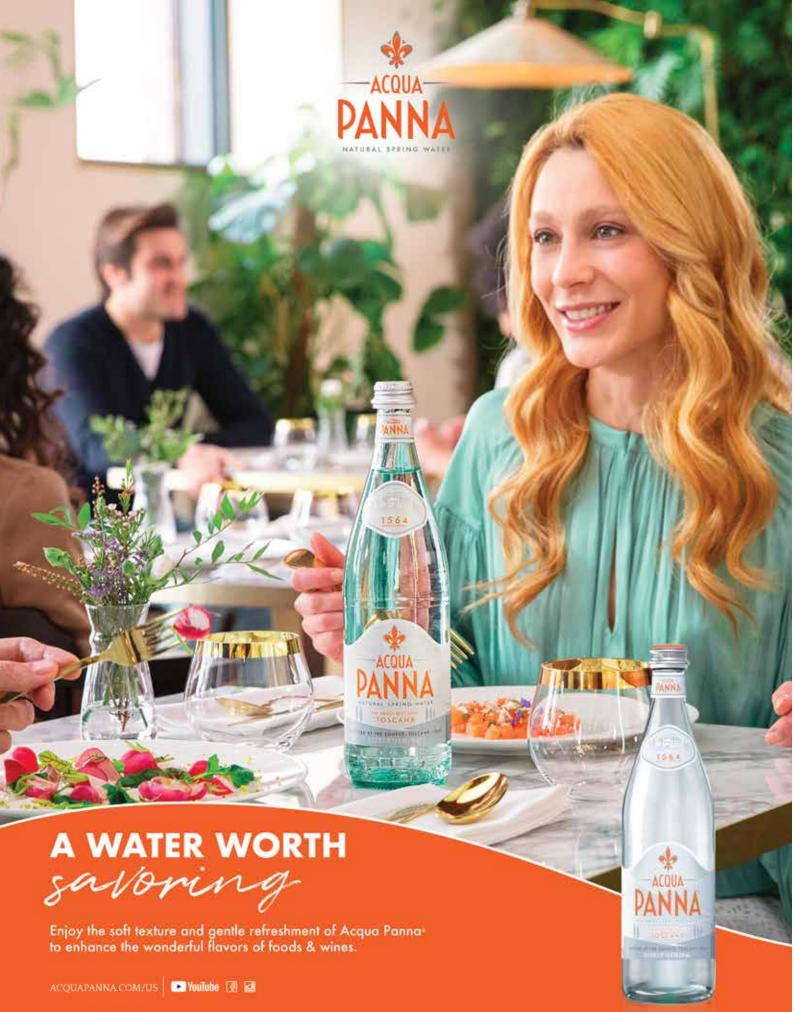
Laguna Niguel, Dana Point



THE RITZ-CARLTON, Laguna Niguel, Dana Point

Have drinks at the Terrace Bar, which is long on cocktails and views. @ritzcarltonlagunaniguel

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Hospitality First

Hospitality is the bridge that transforms a meal into a remarkable culinary journey. It's the intangible element that can turn a good restaurant into a great one, leaving guests with not only satisfied taste buds but also warm memories and a desire to return for more. At L'Amico and Skirt Steak, staff see beyond the plate and extend a warm welcome to all their guests.

Meet L'Amico Restaurant Manager **Omar Dioufat** and Skirt Steak Food and Beverage Manager **Sevoth Vann**, and hear their stories and approach to making your meal a memorable one.



What attracted you to hospitality?

I am from Senegal — or *Le Pays De La Téranga*, which is French for "the hospitality country," so maybe I was born into it! The hospitality industry allows me to connect with people from all over the world, and I love the diversity aspect. The interaction with different cultures and the exposure to all types of cuisine is dazzling!

How would you describe the service at L'Amico?

Friendly, detailed and decisive.

What is the best part of your day?

Seeing our guests enjoying themselves at our tables. There's no better feeling than watching a guest who came in happy leave with an even bigger and wider smile!

What makes L'Amico so special, especially during the holidays?

To be honest, I would point to our diners. L'Amico has a very diverse clientele. We see a lot of familiar faces as well as many visiting our beautiful city during the winter months. There is always a great buzz in the dining room, which can really lift you up.

What's your personal favorite dish at L'Amico?

The roasted oven chicken with the side of garlic focaccia bread.



What attracted you to hospitality?

First and foremost, the interaction with people from all walks in life. I am first-generation from Cambodian descent, and I am drawn to all different cultures, viewpoints and lifestyles. Being able to adapt and assist while providing quality service for different guests is a challenge and a thrill for me

How would you describe the service at Skirt Steak?

Lively and upbeat. At the same time, we strive to make our service approachable so guests feel comfortable asking for any assistance to maximize their experience with the food and their friends.

What is the best part of your day?

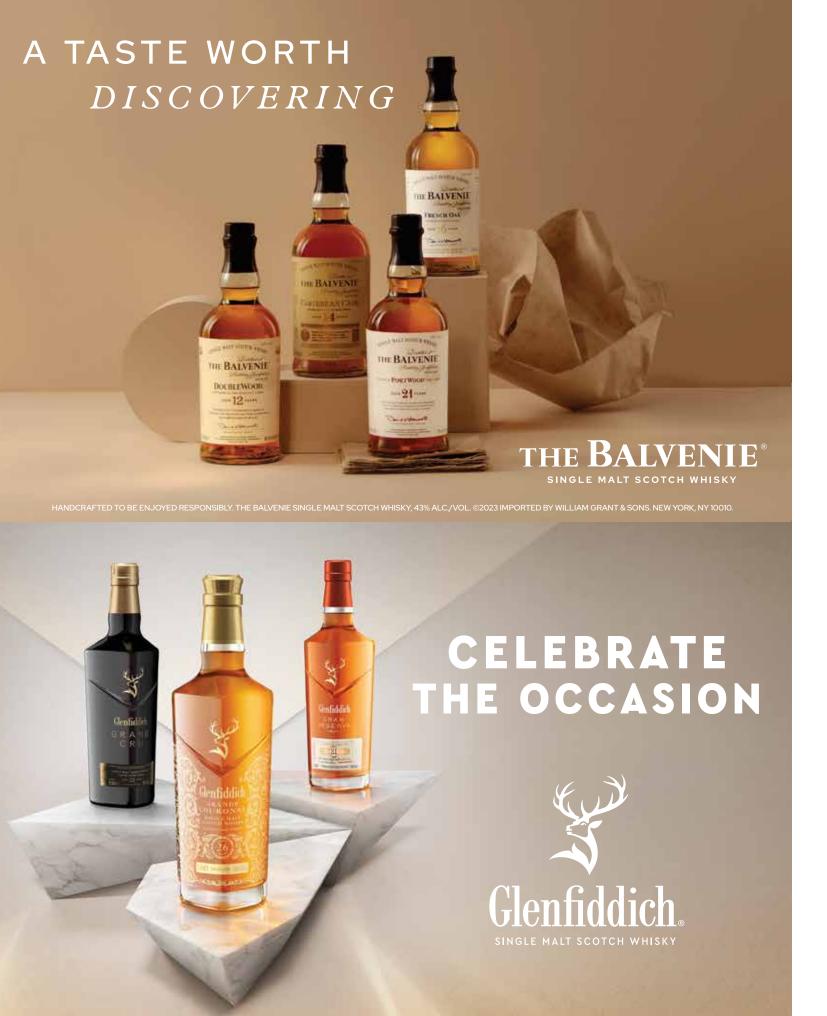
Walking into the restaurant and seeing the people that I consider my extended family. I have spent a lot of time with this crew and created some genuine friendships along the way.

What makes Skirt Steak so special, especially during the holidays?

The warmth of the space and the comfort of the dishes you can soak in to help recharge and power you through the hustle and bustle of the season.

What's your personal favorite dish at Skirt Steak?

What else but the skirt steak! I was always a well-done steak eater until I tried ours at medium, and I was converted. The juices and flavor from the marinade combined with that nice kick you get from our peppercorn béarnaise sauce is just amazing!



TEQUILA THIS WAY!







OAXACAN PALOMA

1 oz Montelobos Mezcal 1 oz Cantera Negra Reposado

1 oz grapefruit juice 0.75 oz lime

0.5 oz simple syrup

Place ingredients and ice in a shaker.

Shake well.

Strain over ice into a diamond-etched

glass with a full salt-and-sugar rim.
Finish with a splash of grapefruit Jarritos.

Add a grapefruit peel, skin up.

Place one thyme sprig on top of the peel.

MEXICANO MEZCAL NEGRONI

1 oz Montelobos Mezcal

1 oz Campari

1 oz Carpano Antica Formula Vermouth

2 dashes orange bitters

Lay a dried orange wheel on the bottom of a cordial glass.

Stir ingredients and strain over ice.

Add a splash of soda.

Garnish with an orange peel and cherry on a swizzle stick.

PASSION EN FUEGO

2 oz Casamigos Blanco Tequila 1 oz passion fruit puree

0.5 oz Cointreau

0.5 oz agave

0.75 oz fresh lime juice

Place ingredients in a shaker. Shake vigorously.

Add four sprays of habanero concentrate to a Tajin salt-rimmed rocks glass.

Pour over ice.

Add two more sprays of habanero concentrate on top.

Garnish with a dehydrated lime wheel and chili threads.

DISCERNING TEQUILA

BLANCO (silver/clear)

Typically bottled immediately after distillation or aged up to two months, producing a clear, agave-forward spirit with notes of citrus, grass and pepper.

JOVEN (young/gold)

A blend of mostly blanco tequila and a small amount of aged tequila.

REPOSADO (aged/light straw)

Spends between two months to a year in oak or steel, where it gets its color as well as vanilla and caramel notes.

AÑEJO (extra aged/amber)

One to three years in oak, where the barrel size is limited to 600 liters to maximize interaction between the wood and the tequila, resulting in a smooth mouthfeel and complex flavor.

EXTRA AÑEJO (ultra aged/dark mahogany)

Aged for a minimum of three years and up to 10 years or more in oak barrels that are no larger than 600 liters.



BACK BAR

HOTEL EVENTI

Welcome to Back Bar, a sanctuary space for all things cocktails. Nestled behind the lobby at the Hotel Eventi, Back Bar is artfully designed with a thoughtful menu to engage the curious epicure: craft cocktails that change seasonally, a selective wine and beer list, curated bites and live music on select evenings. Private mixology classes are also available on demand.

Sign up at backbarnyc.com/happenings to stay informed.

Reservations for 5 or more available on Resy Connect @backbar851

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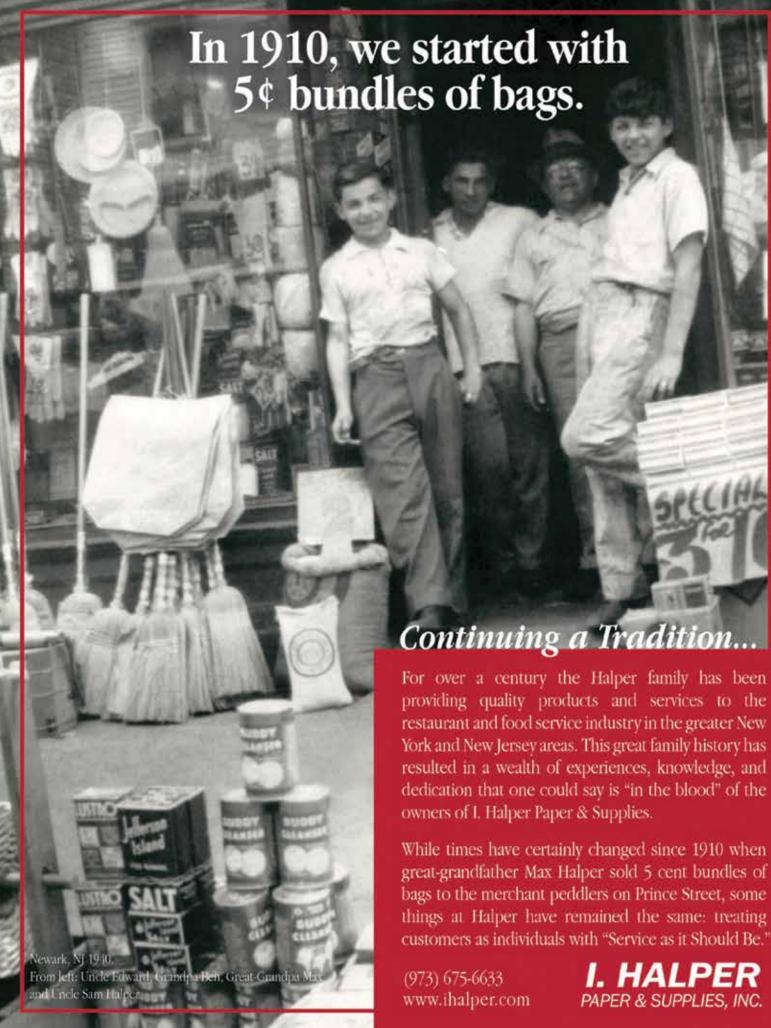


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