



CITIZEN SMITH

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERIC AXENE

A bistro for every man, or shall we say every citizen, recently opened its oversized antique doors at 1600 North Cahuenga Boulevard, in the heart of Hollywood. Merging upscale comfort food with intimate lounge spaces, Citizen Smith is bringing back a neighborhood feel to the renowned streets of old glamour, which are suddenly new again. Owner Andrew Belchic and executive chef Taylor Boudreaux (who opened the popular Mastro's of Beverly Hills and was a 2004 nominee for the James Beard "Rising Star Chef" award) have elevated their "everyman" philosophy to a new, chic level. This clean, comfortable hideaway plays upon stark contrasts, as designer Thomas Schoos balanced austere concrete floors with rich velvet curtains, wrought iron sconces next to dried sea fauna, and antique chandeliers wrapped in transparent photographs of past and present locals. Natural touches warm the crisp modern lines; booths lined in cowhides meld among the contemporary furniture and across from the flickering candles lighting every room are sightlines of the rooftops of historic Tinseltown. (323) 461-5001 or www.citizensmith.com. —Nora Cranley