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» Restaurants - More clothes, more food at new Ivan Kane café

The Place:

Cafe Was

The Scene:

It's been a club-generation since Ivan Kane launched Deep Nightclub at the corner of Hollywood & Vine, bringing picture window go-go dancers and Leonardo-posse to a then grubby-strip of Hollywood. Soon came nearby Forty Deuce with its Las Vegas spin-off that offered femme-fatals shimmying the night away to tinny jazz music and hipster catcalls. While both Hollywood clubs have come and gone, Kane sets-up shop in-between the two with a hybrid lounge/cafe in the former-Schwab's space. The bi-level space, cast in eclectic Parisian furnishings, is reminiscent of a Moulin Rouge scene with sexy details like exposed brick walls, gold-leaf mirrors and crystal chandeliers. The main dining room with its partial balconies and faux fireplaces is open for late night dining as well as a private upstairs lounge also available for private events.



The Food:

While both Forty Deuce and Deep started out with a modest food menus, both were ultimately nixed once it was discovered LA rarely eats where it parties. But Café Was is a different breed of supper club, built around a dining concept of French brasserie cuisine within the sexy space of an overgrown wine bar. The menu is well conceived with sizable appetizers like sweet-onion soup with crusty bread, market-fresh salads and selection of seafood tartars. Main entrees include Steak Frites, Bistro Burger topped with brie and market-fresh seafood dishes served along side a lengthy menu of domestic wines and imported champagne.

Last Word:

While we wouldn't be surprised to see the spot become an outright bar over time, for now it's a chic eatery that mixes the pleasures of cocktails and dinner in a single chic setting.