



INFO:
THE PARK
 1400 SUNSET BLVD.,
 ECHO PARK
 (213) 482-9209
www.thepark1400sunset.com

as vegetable curry, grilled polenta and a veggie burger. If you save room for dessert, try the warm apple crisp with vanilla ice cream. It's extra crispy and delicious. There's also an interesting butterscotch pudding tart and chocolate little-cake.

Inspired by the casual neighborhood joints in San Francisco, Siegel says he wanted to open a seasonal eatery that can offer a quick dinner or a fancy night out. By the looks of it, The Park will succeed and perhaps even inspire more tablecloths and lattes to head east. **NA**

The Hot Corner

**GLENDALE BLVD.
AND MADERA AVE.**

thanks to an influx of professionals and an L.A. Bridges-led community initiative to reduce gang activity, entrepreneurs are finally populating Atwater Village with stylish restaurants and boutiques.

On March 1, Andy Hasroun and Ali Biglar celebrated the grand opening of 55 Degree Wine, a wine shop specializing in Italian varietals, which are categorized geographically. Surrounded by wine barrels and wrought iron, a candlelit downstairs bar hosts three flights of wine nightly, varying every week.

The corner has also developed its own Vietnamese restaurant rivalry. Sam Fenous, Paul Kim and mother Pauline Kim launched colorful Indochine Vien in November 2005, decorating their restaurant with bamboo stalks and drop lighting from Vietnam. Ms. Kim's menu touts crêpes folded with chicken and shrimp, pho brimming with steak, brisket or meatballs, and wonton-wrapped banana fritters, sprinkled with cinnamon.

Across the street, building on the success of Viet Soy Café in Silver Lake, Viet Tran opened Viet Noodle Bar in December 2007. The brick-fronted restaurant has simple design, with two communal wood tables that run the length of the white room and a ledge lined with books. Viet rewrites his menu monthly, but regular features include Hanoi-style chicken noodle soup, white-fish noodles seasoned with dill and turmeric, and organic soy milks flavored with mint or sesame.

To illustrate Atwater's evolution, Hasroun, who served as President of the Atwater-Griffith Park Chamber of Commerce the past two years, says, "Ten years ago, it was scary coming into the neighborhood. Now you can say hi to somebody without them looking at you weird." **-Joshua Lurie**

► **55 Degree Wine**
 3111 Glendale Blvd.,
 Atwater Village, (323) 662-5556

► **Indochine Vien**
 3110 Glendale Blvd.,
 Atwater Village, (323) 667-9591
 or www.indochinevien.com

► **Viet Noodle Bar**
 3133 Glendale Blvd.,
 Atwater Village, (323) 906-1575
 or www.vietnoodlebar.com



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