

# Angeleno

MODERN LIFE

## FOOD DRINK DISH!

EDITED BY BRAD A. JOHNSON



GIVING THE BOOT: Little Dom's aims for an Italian/American aesthetic.

### [QUICK REVIEW] DOM-INO EFFECT

It's not widely known that Los Feliz was once an Italian/American stronghold. So the fact that Little Dom's, the Mulberry Street-inspired newcomer from Warner Ebbink of Dominick's, has taken over La Belle Epoque's former corner space on Hillhurst makes good sense. As does the affordably tuned-up *Sopranos Cookbook* menu and formidable wine list (with dependable Barberas). On the app front, persimmon-hued roasted beets with milky burrata and fennel

pollen vie for attention with the lightly fried artichokes and shrimp, served with an oily mint and garlicky caper dip. The neutral chickpea fries are more comfort kitsch than kitchen magic—the dish's gooey fontina *fonduta* reminds you it's OK to munch junky. Pizzas (with such add-ons as soppressata and herbed ricotta) are thinner than the Eastside singles crowding the curved wooden bar in a tavern-like front room decorated with stuffed fish. And the meatballs are mild but sizable, while more upscale choices like the grilled blue bass with yams and *cavolo nero* can skew a little ripe. The real coups here are the retooled but forgotten classics: expertly baked tortiglioni with spicy homemade sausage and roasted fennel, delicate whitefish piccata and tender chicken cacciatore mom hasn't overbaked. Cinnamon-dusted butternut squash fritters with whipped *crème fraîche* satisfy for dessert. Excitingly for Los Felizians, breakfast and lunch service and an accompanying deli are also in the works. **LITTLE DOM'S:** 2128 Hillhurst Ave., L.A., 323.661.0055 **WHO'S THERE:** Hip Hollywood grupsters, bearded creatives, Rose McGowan **ABOUT THE NOISE:** Led Zeppelin and Tony Bennett compete with a respectable but inspiring conversational din. **WHAT IT COSTS:** Dinner, appetizers \$7–\$15; entrées, \$12–\$24; desserts, \$8; valet parking, \$5. —Adam Baer



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