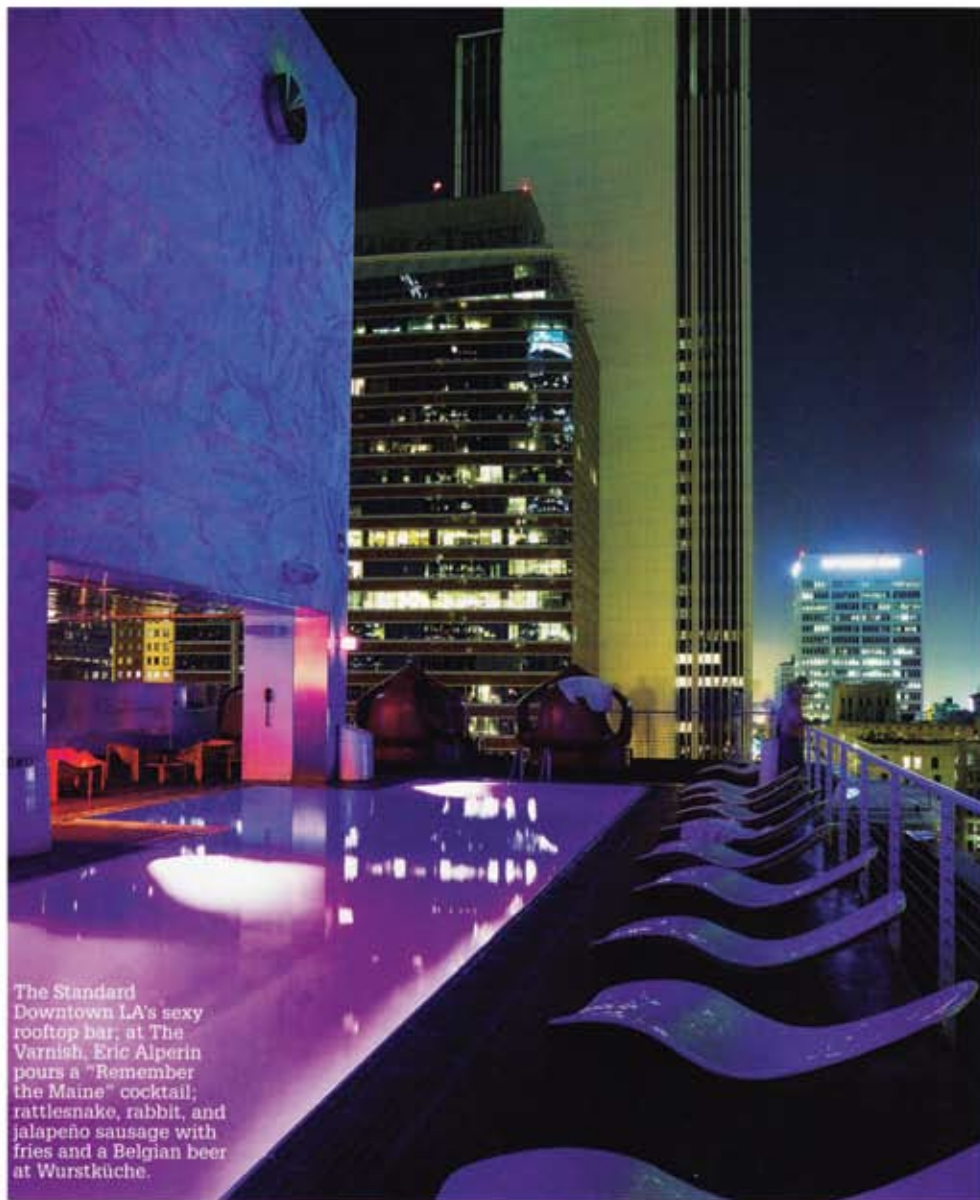


# bon appétit

NOVEMBER 2009

EAT WELL / SAVOR LIFE



The Standard Downtown LA's sexy rooftop bar, at The Varnish, Eric Alperin pours a "Remember the Maine" cocktail; rattlesnake, rabbit, and jalapeño sausage with fries and a Belgian beer at Wurstküche.

## NAVIGATOR

### downtown los angeles

Drawn by its architecture and grit, artists and hipsters began pioneering downtown 30 years ago. Since then, the shimmering Walt Disney Concert Hall and behemoth L.A. Live entertainment center have added cultural heft. Now, fine (and fun) dining has burst onto the scene, with several renowned restaurateurs establishing outposts, and some of the city's most talked-about spots opening all within months of one another.

CAROLYNN CARREÑO

## GO

Los Angeles has three major airports, so it's not hard to find good airfare. JetBlue flies into Long Beach, Burbank, and Los Angeles International airports and Virgin America now touches down at LAX. If you stay downtown, you can walk or take an easy, inexpensive cab ride anywhere you want to go. No car in L.A.? Now that is revolutionary.

## STAY

With its quirky decor and futuristic rooftop bar, André Balazs's Standard Downtown LA hotel has dominated the area since it opened in 2002. Next February, it will have some competition as two highly regarded hotel brands—a Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott—open at L.A. Live, the enormous urban mixed-use mall that houses everything from movie theaters to apartments to upscale chain restaurants. Rooms from \$245; 550 South Flower Street; 213-892-8080; [standardhotels.com](http://standardhotels.com) ▶



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