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## The Password Tonight Is... THE VIC FOR JAZZ

by Thomas Young & Maureen Tobin  
Editors-at-Large

*"C'mon down and we can paint the town...and all that jazz. Start the car I know a whoopee spot. Where the gin is cold but the piano's hot. It's just a noisy hall Where there's a nightly brawl and all that Jazz..." (Chicago)*

Speakeasies are meant to be clandestine. You get to the hidden entrance of **The Vic for Jazz**, Santa Monica, not hidden for those who are "in," and the big eye on the wooden sliding door greets you. Clunk on the heavy doorknocker and a huge man greets/glazes you down. "Password, please," he intones. If you are "in" you should know the password, which changes weekly. The Vic was supposed to be private but word kept leaking out. So many people wanted to be on the coveted invite-email list for these exclusive Thursday night fests. If you're lucky you can now have the benefit of an evening at The Vic for Jazz, a place with a feeling of a jazz/superclub in your living room, or in a friend's parlor, the feeling you're getting a private showing.

Owner Ray Slayton considers this his baby as he articulates, "Welcome to the Vic, where magic is but a note away." Ray, long known around town as the brains behind jazz acts, produces and books some of the most renowned names in the jazz industry into hot spots. In these dimly lit, intimate rooms where sophisticated music lovers and celebrities mix, jazz happens. It could be the 1920's/1930's just as easily as 2005. Because it's so pleasurable to listen to jazz while imbibing and indulging, come for dinner, drinks, wines, desserts and coffees. Enjoy excellent food at reasonable prices. On this night the Chicken and Brie Quesadilla were exactly what Maureen had a taste for. Thomas had the Flat Iron Steak, Maitre d' Hotel. The barrel of fries is always a favorite nibbler. Get there around 7:30 for the first set if you want to be up close and personal. The first show starts at 8pm. There are a couple different seating areas, the main one with tables close to the stage, the bar/table area a little farther back, and the "living room" with big chairs, sofas and a big TV/Video for viewing the performers where you can be a little more informal, cozy up and chat, etc. Feel as comfortable coming to The Vic alone as with friends. The Vic is at the rear of the Victorian Museum. \$20 cover first show, \$10 cover for second show and \$5 for the midnight show. Call to get on the email list and check the website for upcoming performances, [www.thevicforjazz.com](http://www.thevicforjazz.com). 2640 Main Street, (888) 367-5299. Ray Slayton is also the mastermind behind the widely anticipated Santa Monica Jazz Festival.

Email your comments:  
[thomasandmaureen@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasandmaureen@yahoo.com)

## "GET A LIFE ...A NIGHT LIFE THAT IS!"

BY THOMAS YOUNG  
& MAUREEN TOBIN  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

A FEW PLACES WHERE THE FOOD  
AND MUSIC INTERMINGLE:

### CAROUSEL

It is easy to see why Lebanon has long been the center of culinary arts in the Middle East. Expect a consummate food and entertainment fete that will blow you away at Carousel Restaurant, Authentic Middle Eastern Cuisine in Glendale, serving Lebanese food with Armenian overtones. No wonder Elmer Dills loves it here. Join the multinational cosmopolitan melting pot where they say, "Good food, good music, good company, good life." Sunday through Thursday order off their huge menu. But Friday/Saturday evenings, become part of the "Entertainment Package" as plates and plates of piquant delicacies are brought to your table. Enjoy all of this with a full bar, excellent wines and rich coffees. At 9:30 live international music revs up the crowd who dances away the hours. To top off the provocative music, late on Friday/Saturday the magnetic female dancers explode onto the scene. Patrons throw money onto the dance floor to show their excited enthusiasm. It's hard to take your eyes off these talented femmes. Kudos to owners, Mike Cholakian at the Glendale location, open 6.5 years, his mother Rose who created the recipes, and father Greg at the Hollywood location for over 20 years. What an ultimate evening. Kasuk, cheers. Tiba, delicious. Prices are incredibly reasonable. [www.carouselrestaurant.com](http://www.carouselrestaurant.com) 304 N. Brand Blvd, (818) 246-7775. Hollywood address is 5112 Hollywood Blvd. (323)-660-8060.



*You only go around once on this big spinnin' planet of love. So don't be wastin' my time, tell me what your dreamin' of. We'll take a rocket to the moon and when we get that far, I'll hang your coat and hat up on a shooting star. Let's live it up! Let's live it up! Let's live it up! - by Brian Setzer*

### MO'S PLACE

There is more to Mo's Place, in Playa del Rey, than that 8-ball on the roof that meets the eye. Mo's is a treasure trove of fantastic food and the best, most affable sports bar around. Upon first happening into Mo's, you probably notice the 10 TV monitors, 4 pool tables, other sports paraphernalia and large open bar. Then you stop short, somewhat in awe, as your eyes focus on the tables where people are dining on marvelous looking food. This isn't just any commonplace sports bar. The clientele is more upscale, more professional. Owner Mo Krant is inherently proud of this place and the menu with its hefty portions of hamburgers, steaks, fish, sandwiches, daily specials and super Italian Thursdays, enormous salads, etc with very reasonable prices. Monday Night Football parties, the best weekend breakfasts in town, all Saturday pay-per-view college games, and Sunday sporting events make people flock here. We consider Mo the Wolfgang Puck of the Sports Bar World. Mo's Place is a great find, not only as a sports bar, but for the food, service, and happy feeling Mo creates. 203 Culver Blvd, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293 (310) 822-6422].

### CÉZANNE

Follow your senses into a world of elegant dining at Cézanne, in Le Merigot Hotel, Santa Monica. European fineness caresses you like the balmy Santa Monica breezes once you have



Night Life runs the gamut from noteworthy restaurants, music, supper clubs, comedy, magic, karaoke, live theatre, everything. Our aim is to invite you, entice you, to "Get A Life...A Night Life, That is"

decided that being pampered to the nth degree is just what you so deserve. With enchanting décor, warm soft lighting, beautifully set tables and each dish meticulously crafted by Executive Chef Desi Szonntag, gastronomes and connoisseurs of superior food and joie de vivre will feel at home here. Always at the top of his game, Chef Desi has created a new menu, blending French Provencal, Mediterranean, California and Pacific Rim tastes. Every top gourmet magazine and restaurant critic agrees that Cézanne stands alone when it comes to exquisite cuisine, fabulous desserts, the finest wines, outstanding service and inviting ambiance. Now for your pleasure, Cézanne offers authentic themed nights, such as Bistro Night, Vintner Dinners, and a new Tapas menu. Our preferred evenings are when master pianist Robert Carpenter is so skillfully and deftly playing, Wednesday through Saturday. Though he is perfect background music for Cézanne's inviting vibes, we love listening to him play songs from several decades and styles. He augments an already engaging evening.. C'est on ne peut mieux. It's just perfect. 1740 Ocean Ave SM 90401 (310) 395-9700.

*Please email your comments or suggestions to [thomasandmaureen@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasandmaureen@yahoo.com) and keep having fun. Thomas & Maureen's column appears in several Los Angeles area publications.*