



Hi!
Society

By MONET LU

Yummy Eateries in LA

FIRST OF ALL, allow me to congratulate the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra for the smashing success of their concert last Sunday at the Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills. High praise goes to Asian Journal, the bold mover of this very complex undertaking.

I stood in applause with the rest of the Fil-Am community who watched the earth-shaking performances.

Lito Cruz and Andy Tecson are to be commended for their part in the production's success.

Kapuri-puri ang ginawa ng production team *na ito*. They opened our eyes, hearts and mind to the beauty of the symphony.

I was particularly moved by the Filipino love songs that I have not heard in a long, long time.

Napakahusay din ng mga performers--Joey Albert, Stephanie Reese and Pete Avendaño

Once again, kudos to FASO. *Bravissimo! Mabuhay kayo.*

Max's Puente Hills

As a salute to the dynamic *Pinoy* palate, I'm continuing my review of Filipino-owned restaurants that deserve the spotlight for the great value they offer.

My friend and colleague Joey Buscay and I enjoyed a sumptuous meal at the new Max's branch in Puente Hills located inside the Puente Hills Mall on 1600 Azusa Road, Suite 166 City of Industry, CA 91748.

I've been to all the Max's restaurants here in the Southland but this new one in Puente Hills truly stands out. They offer a very attractive and affordable lunch menu, served at your leisure while you are seated at their very clean dining area.

Since I'm a pescetarian (a vegetarian who eats fish), I basked in their fresh seafood offering: Boneless *Bangus sa Miso*. With one sip of the broth, I was transported back to the good ol' times back home. *Pilipinong-Pilipino talaga ang timpla*.

To complete the deal, I paired my *bangus* with asparagus and tofu. It was simply sensational!

My friend Joey ordered *halo-halo* for dessert. The Grande size can easily feed four people. The ingredients are so fresh.

Max's Puente Hills also deserve an A+ for excellent service. The staff is courteous and helpful, making sure all the dinning customers have a great experience.

This is definitely the best Max's branch I've been to. They have a patio area that can be transformed into a party venue for special occasions such as weddings or baptism receptions.

This area reminds me of The Fort in Greenhills. It's a nice hangout on Fridays and weekends because they also serve cocktails.

On the Hi! Society Yummy Meter, I give 5 Licks! to Max's Puente Hills. (Based on a scale of 1 through 5, with 5 denoting the highest tummy ap-

proval rating). Keep up the good work!

Yojie Shabu Shabu

My dining escapade continues with my friend and fellow food connoisseur Bong Prada Lim. While I was in the Cerritos neighborhood earlier this week, I developed a craving for some *shabu shabu*.

Unanimously, Bong and I agreed on the best choice for this very cuisine: Yojie Shabu Shabu Japanese Restaurant. It was my second time at this eatery owned by the distinguished Leelin family of entrepreneurs.

We were so graciously entertained by the young son of Menard and Yojie Leelin, Mendrick, who co-manages the restaurant.

I opted for seafood *shabu shabu* while Bong chose Angus beef. Personally, I got a kick out of knowing that I was eating delicious food that was good for my health as well.

If you're a bit of a health nut like me, you'll surely appreciate the Yojie Shabu Shabu dining experience. It's rich in protein and essential vitamins. The ingredients are fresh and oil-free.

In addition, the menu prices at Yojie Shabu Shabu are affordable! It's no surprise that this eatery is becoming the premier *shabu shabu* place in Cerritos.

On my Yummy Meter, I give this establishment 5 Licks! (Based on a scale of 1 through 5, with 5 denoting the highest tummy approval rating).

While I was at Yojie Shabu Shabu, I had a chance to have some face time with two of the brains behind Yojie Inc.

The matriarch Yojie Leelin, wife of Leelin Family Business CEO Menard Leelin, is a graduate of the prestigious Cordon Bleu Culinary School and the Sushi Chef Institute.

Her son Mendrick is a graduate of California Polytechnic University (Pomona) and the Sake Sommelier Intensive Course at SCI.

I have to mention the awesome dynamic between mother and son--it's very inspiring to watch.

This family of entrepreneurs (the same group responsible for the Goldilocks chain of Restaurant and Bakery establishments in Southern California), are to be commended for setting high standards of quality and professionalism in the food and restaurant business.

They are very excited to unveil a new restaurant branch at the Nokia Theatre in Downtown LA.

For the past 25 years, the Leelins have been giving us quality in everything that they have put on the table.



Customers get the VIP treatment at Max's Puente Hills



A fun and healthy dining experience at Yoshi Shabu Shabu

They have become a shining example of Filipino entrepreneurial success and innovation achieved through hard work and perseverance. Yoji Shabu Shabu is located at 11710 South Street, Unit 105 in Artesia. Call (562) 402-2288.

More power to you!

The author is a Marikina-born, award-winning celebrity beauty stylist with his own chain of salons across Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada. Ultimately, Monet is known

as an all-around artiste who produces sold-out fashion and awards shows, as well as unforgettable marketing campaigns. Monet is also the founder of the revolutionary all-natural beauty products available at www.skinbymonet.com. He supports many humanitarian efforts to include projects in his native Marikina, The Bantay Bata Foundation, and many more. To contact Monet, please visit www.monetsalon.com for more information.

Roundtrip Tickets to the Philippines Plus Kulinarya Tour Await Winner of Goldilocks' VIP Grand Raffle Draw

IMAGINE GOING on a tour where every stop is a feast for the senses...a tour defined by unforgettable gourmet meals, all showcasing the best of a region's produce and culinary arts. Imagine fun-filled, interactive cooking demonstrations in an ambience of elegance at ancestral homes, conducted by master chefs and featuring timeless family recipes.

Imagine all that, plus lots of sightseeing and photo opportunities highlighted by visits to local markets, farms or food processing plants -- and a shopping spree that allows tourists to pick up delicious goodies to take home for *pasalubong*.

This is the concept behind the Kulinarya Tours offered by the Philippine Department of Tourism: to promote the country as a culinary destination, where both local and foreign tourists can experience not only the sights, but also the wonderful tastes and flavors of a country whose cuisine is as exciting and colorful as its culture and history.

All these await the first-prize winner of Goldilocks' VIP Rewards Raffle Draw to be held in October, 2009. The Philippine Department of Tourism--Los Angeles is sponsoring the first prize consisting of two roundtrip tickets to the Philippines and a free Kulinarya Tour.

Long considered an icon of Filipino cuisine particularly in the United

States, Goldilocks has partnered with the Philippine Department of Tourism to actively promote the Philippines as a unique culinary destination.

According to Goldilocks (Los Angeles) Director of Operations Menard Leelin, "The Philippine trip and culinary tour courtesy of the Tourism department will give the winners of our VIP Grand Raffle Draw the unique opportunity to experience Filipino culture at its best, by sampling and savoring the country's native dishes at different culinary destinations. The Kulinarya Tour is a wonderful program and we are more than happy to do our share in promoting Philippine history, culture and cuisine through our

PAGE B10 ►

O Skin Care
Great looking skin doesn't just happen...[®]

Get **25% OFF**
Your Facial Treatments

Bring a friend and Both of you will get **50% off...**

*Promo valid May 1 to June 30, 2009

Please Call: (562) 897-1445 or (562) 865-2030

17808 South Pioneer Blvd., Suite 112
Artesia, CA 90701

The Albertson Wedding Chapel

Tasteful & Affordable Weddings Daily in L.A.

Forget Vegas. Civil or Catholic Weddings, Newly Remodeled & All Natural Flower Decor.

Instant Proof of Marriage.



WEDNOW.NET

(323) 937-4919

5318 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90036

R REAL DENTISTRYSM
General and Cosmetic Dentistry

ZOOM! invisalign

- Sedation Dentistry for fearful patients
- Smile Design with Veneers
- We Accept Most Insurances

Payment Options with 0% interest through **CareCredit[®]**

www.realdentistry.com

100 Laguna Rd. Ste 202, Fullerton, CA 92835

714.525.2888

DR. HERCULES REAL
Dentist
Postgraduate Training in UCLA