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Art Walk Opening Doors for Diners

By [ED FUENTES](#)

Published: Thursday, August 14, 2008, at 12:14PM



Ed Fuentes

Robert Davtian, General Manager for The Great Steak.

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES — The Great Steak's Robert Davtian is the cheese steak entrepreneur who looks like he came straight from Philly. In reality, he's from Glendale, and he opened his place two months ago. This Thursday he plans to keep his café open past 5:30pm, in hopes of grabbing an Art Walk crowd.

That's good news for those who want to grab a quick bite in between exhibits. While we don't often feature franchises, The Great Steak's menu has received good buzz from locals, featuring items like Grilled steak with onions and provolone cheese, better than the usual franchise salads, and fries cooked in peanut oil. There's something for everyone.

Staying open on the second Thursday of the month gives businesses like Great Steak, Falafel Express, Hoagies and Wings, a chance to introduce themselves to Downtown's residents. "I have the paperwork to be an Art Walk sponsor ready to go," says Davtian, who is curious to see if the Art Walk crowd finds him in the Broadway Spring Corridor.

That urban path, while steps away from 4th and Spring, has historically not captured pedestrian flow. Hoagies and Wings (332 S. Broadway) is located at the other end of the walkway past Biddy Mason Park. The restaurant has been an aggressive suitor for gallery goers. This week they are offering jazz and funk from 6:30pm to 10pm with The Fresh Band, singer Monica, and singer Hilari, as well as a 4-Wing freebie with some orders.

In many ways, the Art Walk is a once-a-month experiment in urban living that gives the streets a sudden infusion of life, showing what is possible. Downtown would really be working overtime if smaller businesses had reasons to stay open past 6pm every evening.

Comments

Foodies Tremble writes:

I'm not impressed that fast food restaurants are opening later for gallery goers.

McDonalds are already open late. Same thing.

ON AUG.14.2008 AT 02:08 PM

Raul writes:

I love The Great Steak, and now I love The Art Walk for getting Great Steak to stay open late,



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18 this week; 18 total

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9 this week; 9 total

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8 this week; 8 total

[Who Was John H. Jones?](#)
7 this week; 7 total

[Tiny 7th Street Retail Space Lands BBQ King](#)
7 this week; 13 total

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5 this week; 5 total

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BLOGDOWNTOWN PHOTO POOL



even if it is for every second Thursday of the month. Good food, great prices, very good baked potatoes, and the manager is a really cool guy. Try their wings and Chili it's the bomb.

ON AUG.14.2008 AT 04:33 PM

meekorouse writes:

I tend to avoid McDonald's personally so having real options for quick food late evening at Art Walk is handy. I went to Falafel Express last night and there was a good group of folks dining and I had a good late night dinner that was pretty healthy and delicious.

ON AUG.15.2008 AT 08:24 PM

Jose Abarca writes:

Yo Your parking really sucks Robert

ON AUG.15.2008 AT 08:42 PM

Jose Abarca writes:

Just kidding. There is plenty of parking the in structure underneath!!!! The food is great!!!!

ON AUG.15.2008 AT 08:46 PM

Foodies Tremble writes:

This is Los Angeles and we "aspire" to the lowest common denominator of dining.

Pathetic.

ON AUG.16.2008 AT 03:58 AM

Scott Mercer writes:

Who's "aspiring" to the lowest common denominator? LA?

Are you flipping kidding me? This is the town that INVENTED Wolfgang Puck and the concept of the celebrity chef! Certainly no shortage of aspirational chefs and restauranteurs around these parts, pally. Check your history.

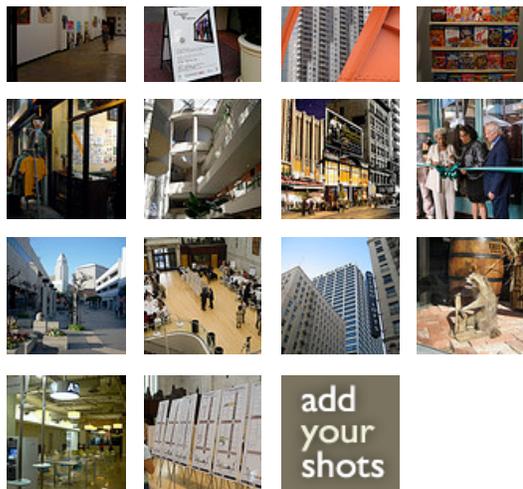
Just because a restaurant is lower priced, does that automatically mean you have to tear it a new one? Does one posting on one website suddenly turn Los Angeles into a town of shrinking violets, content to shovel corporate-manufactured gruel into their mouths without a care or question?

NO, I say! We are a foodie town! We are not satisfied with McFood! Yes, there is a robust market for hamburgers, and chili dogs, and all manner of noble, cheap, workaday foodstuffs. But that does not mean that we, as eaters, reject the gustatory delights of the innovators, the artistes of the kitchen, and those who enjoy the more refined pleasures! How dare you mock the citizens of this great metropolis! I challenge thee to a duel!

ON AUG.16.2008 AT 01:33 PM

Foodies Tremble writes:

Oh come on, Scott. You know that LA wishes it could have the gastronomic clout that SF does. Yes, there is good food to be had in Los Angeles and a lot of it...but Downtown's restaurant-scape has much to be desired, in both quality and operating hours. Ever get hungry downtown on a Sunday night? Not much out there, is there? (And no, I'm not a fan of any of those Old Bank restaurants.) When was the last time you tried to get good bread and pastries -- like French or Italian style, not pan dulce? There is good expensive food downtown and a sea of mediocre mod-priced restaurants, most of them closing way too early. I think the fact that Downtown News writes an enthusiastic article about the opening of a 7-11 sums it up. I'm not sniffing at street food, but sorry, I would expect more to crow about for an art crowd than Steak-ums and wings.



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ON AUG.17.2008 AT 01:28 PM

town down writes:

I have to agree that the options in downtown are lacking to say the least. I am encouraged however of the bars/lounges/cafes popping up in the historic core.

ON AUG.18.2008 AT 09:52 PM

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blogdowntown was started in January of 2005 as a place to document life in Downtown Los Angeles. The goal was and is to start a conversation about Downtown life with those who live and work here. [More](#)