



LA.COM



Magnolia

Good food, good atmosphere: It's simple as black and white

Address: 6266 1/2 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA
(323) 467-0660

Cross Street: Vine St.

Neighborhood: Hollywood

Type: Contemporary

Hours: Daily 11am-3am



Conjuring a fun, casual warmth from a crisp black-and-white décor, Magnolia is a regal enough redo of the Bar 66 space that amiable Penguin-clad diners praise it to strangers in the bathroom.

The owners know how to create fuss-free fun: Their bar just up the street—called, simply, The Bar—is a hidden haven that, like Magnolia, aims for a façade that's flawless but not overdone. (We're convinced the waitstaff's uniforms of Dickies and white belts were already in the closets of all who were hired.) Rows of square black tables surrounded by clean white brick comprise open clusters of formal dining areas; black leather couches offer choices for a more low-key pitstop that's still a step up from a stool at the central bar. A small enclosed patio out back, housing just a few tables, is even more intimate. The menu from chef Cody Diegel, which includes brunch and late-night options, is heavy on seafood options but not *heavy*. Appetizers like the shrimp cocktail and crab-and-brie quesadillas are tasty without being overbearing; the sauces for the beef and chicken satays are fantastic. Entrees include salmon, free-range chicken and a just-right lobster ravioli. A sandwich made of soft chocolate chip cookies and mint chocolate chip ice cream brought our evening to an appropriately pretense-free conclusion.

Cost: \$\$

Atmosphere: Hip

Celebrity Factor: Tracee Ellis Ross was ahead of us at the valet stand.

Parking: Valet, limited street parking