

Client: Tender Greens

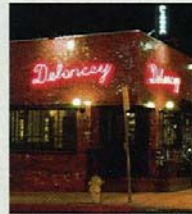
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WEEKEND REPORT



Clockwise from top:
Station at the W;
Mission Cantina's bar;
Delancey on Sunset.



Sunset Strip Trip

A weekend jaunt to L.A. sans automobile used to be unfathomable. Sure, a lush enough room at any luxe lodge comes with car service, but the opening of the opulent **W Hollywood** on Hollywood Boulevard, along with a spate of walkable, urban bar/testos on neighboring Sunset, means weekend warriors are now traveling on foot. In the first LEED-compliant property in L.A., glam, eco-conscious design oozes from sleek guest rooms, spacious bars, the Bliss spa and the Vegas-style poolside club, **Drai's**. There's even a Metro stop mere steps away, beside the outdoor Station bar. But beware: On Sundays the pool and Drai's run amok with promoters, and shockingly, a keycard won't get you a cabana, or even a line cut. Turn your attention elsewhere. On Sunset, restaurateur George Abou-Daoud has opened **District** (a warm-industrial fine dining gem with a reclaimed 100-year-old bar) and the **Mercantile** (a wine bar/gourmet market hybrid), which extend his single street gourmand 'hood of Mission Cantina, the Bowery and Delancey, each with late-night hours and famous fans. **Tender Greens**, an organic, fast-casual spot, is new next door; down the street, hipster music venue the **Palladium** has undergone a facelift; and **La Vida**, a new Spanish restaurant/nightclub, is exotic and worthwhile. The boulevards may be a two-minute walk, but "they're two different worlds," says Abou-Daoud, "like the beach bars on Balboa Island versus in Newport." —KR