

ROBERT REDFORD'S SUNDANCE RESORT

TRAVEL & LEISURE

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secrets of
Provence



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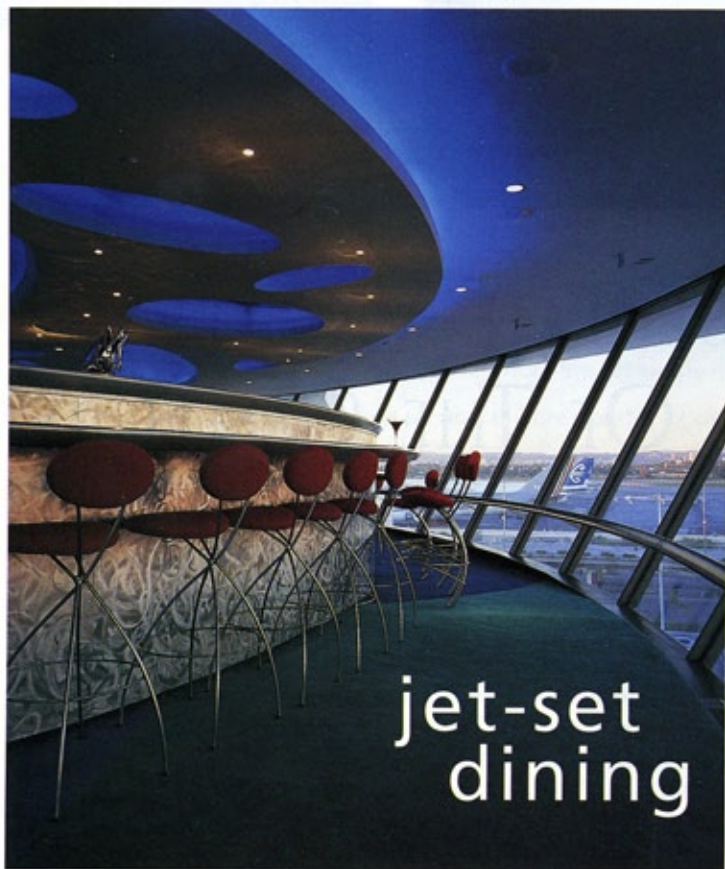


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jet-set
dining



get ready for close encounters—of the culinary kind—at LAX, Los Angeles's international airport. A restaurant called Encounter has just opened its portals at the airport's famous spidery Theme Building, erected in 1961. Its parabolic arches are now illuminated in electric blue and magenta. The interior, created by Walt Disney Imagineering, is a futuristic flashback; the staff outfits are part *Star Trek*, part *Barbarella* (minus the flesh). Cozy up to the brushed-steel bar, with its opalescent surface and oversize lava lamps, for intergalactic cocktails, many tinted red. Consulting chef John Rivera Sedlar, famous for Abiquiu and Bikini, and executive chef Patrick Glennon have whipped up whimsical "globally regional" dishes: tamale chateaubriand, Everything Under the Moon vegetarian plate, and the Chocolate Stratosphere dessert, thinly layered hazelnut biscuits, espresso buttercream, and mousse, garnished with sugar straws. Wondering where to greet the new millennium? You've found the place. ENCOUNTER RESTAURANT, Los Angeles International Airport, 209 World Way; 310/215-5151; dinner for two \$70. —CHRIS RUBIN



Ready for takeoff. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Encounter's bar, with a runway view; the landmark 1961 Theme Building; spacey curves in the dining area.