



by CHARLOTTE WALLACE

# Small plate celebration: R10 Social House

Small plates restaurants are always a good option for weekend dinners. You are not tied to one dish, and you can try a bit of everything without getting uncomfortably full.

Unfortunately, all the best small plates eateries were concentrated in Santa Monica and Venice until last spring. Suddenly, with the opening of R10 Social House, the small plates genre made its migration to the South Bay. R10, in my opinion, is actually better than most of its Santa Monica and Venice small plate counterparts.

R10 Social House is located to the side of the Redondo Beach Pier. Luckily for us, R10 has not been completely discovered by the South Bay population yet, so no long waits exist and reservations

are not necessary at this time. It has a nice view of the pier, and sits secluded from the noise and stinky fish smell that surrounds the majority of the Redondo Beach Pier.

The restaurant has stylish dé-

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The specials change daily, and new dishes are always making an appearance on the menu. My per-

sonal favorite dish is the chef's take on chicken and waffles. The dish features vanilla bean waffles, fried chicken with a Cajun flavor, and really high-quality organic maple syrup.

I also recommend the Summer Sesh Salad. The salad has farmers' market watermelon that is always super-tasty, heirloom tomatoes, and fresh burrata cheese. The restaurant uses some interesting methods of preparation, such as a kind of compressing technique on the watermelon to get more of the ingredients and creative combinations.

Most recently, I tried the roasted pork special that came with homemade beet chips, which was absolutely delicious.



Courtesy of YELP

The stylish interior, including high wooden tables, and rustic vibe give diners an experience to savor at R10 Social House in Redondo Beach.

Don't forget to save room for dessert. You can't go wrong with any of the desserts, but my favorite is the banana pudding. It comes in a really cute mini-jar, and the crunchy crust and creamy pudding make for a great combination.

R10 Social House is one of my family's favorite small plates restaurants, and we are very picky

eaters. I can almost guarantee, unless you are strictly a McDonald's kind of person, that you will not have a bad meal or experience.

Try it as soon as you can because it won't take long for the rest of the South Bay to discover the great food at R10 Social House, 179 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach 90277, 310-798-2500.



by LINDSEY WALLER

# What's the story? Sharing the power of words

When I first read Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*, I dismissed his notion that words cannot accurately express the human experience. I believe in the power of words. Words create stories; I love telling and hearing stories.

My friend recently told me a story about a traumatic personal experience. She and her cousin got lost in the wilderness for 10 hours. The girls were hiking on their family ranch because they wanted to see if the path would loop back around to the ranch house. They trekked up steep hills and through winding ravines for hours. As they crested the largest hill at that point, it became clear that the path

was only taking them farther from home. Soon after they made the decision to turn around and head home, the sun receded and darkness absorbed everything. On the way back, the path seemed a hundred times more terrifying and the terrain a hundred times more challenging than it did on the way out.

In the darkness they struggled to stay on track, as everything began to look the same. Paranoid that a mountain lion stalked their every step, the girls sang at the top of their lungs: "Dinah, won't you blow your horn?" When my friend had to leave her horse behind because the horse refused to climb back up the hill, tears spilled down her

cheeks. But her instincts pushed her to keep going. Dehydrated and exhausted, the girls took turns riding the horse and guiding her. When my friend heard rustling in the brush next to her, her heart pounded against her chest. I'm going to die, she thought to herself... there is no possible way I can get out of this.

Suddenly, she noticed lights in the distance. Flooded with hope, the girls screamed for help. When their eyes finally focused, though, she realized they were just tail lights. Just as my friend and her cousin crumpled to the ground, ready to give up, they heard a voice shouting in the distance. They

turned and saw a faraway figure, who broke into a sprint toward them. When the figure reached the girls, they recognized their uncle. Unable to contain their hysteria any longer, the girls sobbed as they embraced their uncle.

Now for a true confession: The story I just told you is not entirely true. The general facts are accurate. My friend was lost for 10 hours with her cousin, she did leave her horse when he refused to continue, and their uncle did rescue them in the end. The rest, though, was my version of someone else's story. I told her story based on the way it made me feel. I thought I knew exactly how she felt until I imagined

how my friend might interpret a similar story about my own traumatic experience. I knew I could never truly make her understand.

So what is the point? Why tell stories if we will be alone with our experiences no matter how many words we use to try to describe them? Even though I can't know exactly how my friend felt, her story touched me. Once I got past the fact that I can never truly convey my own experience, I realize that despite the limitations, storytelling is my best outlet.

My story can still convey message, and if I tell it well, I'm hopeful that I can evoke enough emotion to create empathy.

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