

LA Unscripted | October 23rd, 2023

From hotspots to hidden gems This is your guide to all things local The L A unscripted way and we're all about this episode The weather the boats just an hour from downtown L A is a slice of h2o heaven in Newport Beach Hi everyone I'm Devin on board Levi And for the next half hour we've got our coordinate set on some of our favorite social spots So let's cast off and reveal this local must We're hidden inside this little square of a plaza with all these like foods and mom and pop shops This smells so good I am gonna wear this as perfume Look at that I am wearing this as perfume Ok You know how we always ask for your suggestions What we got an amazing one here in Valley Village She wrote us the sweetest letter I want you to come meet her so good I can't wait Come on in And this is Tiffany who actually sent us a suggestion to come visit Lo to be Cubana and we're here and we're so excited You reached out to us What made you want to reach out from watching the show with my family from seeing everything that you guys highlight in the community and then wanting this restaurant to be part of that and highlight it as well Do you wanna read us the letter that you sent to L A unscripted Lata Verna Cubana is a Cuban restaurant located in Valley Village Aside from having amazing cuisine and great reviews The owner Alfonso was also born and raised in the city of Los Angeles and is working hard to give back to the community with great food We would love for the restaurant to be highlighted as another great option in the community when looking for food and a place to dine in with your family Thank you so much Full disclosure The owner is actually her boyfriend and this is his restaurant although they kind of work here a lot together How long have you guys been together Almost four years Four years That's amazing What a good girlfriend you are It's funny because every time I get the question of like oh what part from Cuba are you from They always point to the map up there on the wall and I tell them I'm not Cuban My mom found this place with the help of our accountant and uh she fell in love with it right away Had a nice little vibe to it I didn't want to change anything because we were already kind of sold the idea like all this is actually pretty nice So we hired a Cuban chef We just focused on improving the food making sure that the roa VHA tastes good that the tropical chicken doesn't come out salty that the shrimp and garlic sauce that the sauce comes out Right These are her favorite These are empanadas So what do you just dip it in the I do I like to dip it in the cilantro sauce and take a bite 00 what is in here It's still steaming Look at the inside

of that There's this like chicken and peppers and warm It's like almost like a stew I'm gonna take a little bit of rice and I'm gonna dip it into this buttery garlicky lemony spicy stuff Oh my God Taste just like it smells delicious Oh I met my girlfriend on bumble Did you know she had reached out to L A unscripted No I did not know she reached out And so she told me after the fact through thick and thin me and her whether it's gonna be my business or she opens her own business we're gonna be there to help each other pull this I keep noticing this thing like go like this Watch it's time to maybe put a ring on it not to put you on the spot Well to put her on the spot She was always against weddings What what twist I wouldn't say no I'm not She wouldn't say no just saying mine too Look Yeah Look at yours Yeah Look at yours Not too shabby Right But if you need a time out from the water Jasmine Simpkins is anchoring down at this next spot to keep you in The Know this isn't the first restaurant you've been a chef at So let's talk about kind of your pedigree before getting here to Joyce You want the cliff notes I do I do make it quick because I'm hungry My name is Prince Riley Uh I'm the founder and co-owner of Joyce and we focus on food from the southern coast We call our concept soul and Sea Partnered up with Sam actually slid in his D MS Little Bat You know that was three years ago and we just really dug each other off the bat and then started to feel like a brotherhood together And the chef obviously brings his culinary talents and skills but passion for southern cooking and he is bi close to him and his wife Cassidy and Cassidy does the beverage program So the two of them being married there's a beautiful marriage between the beverage and the food So we call it uh I'll take this line from Sammy but we call it family owned family style This is the Loretta Lynn which is named after our dog who's named after the singer So this is one of our raw bar platters and these are Laguna Bay oysters which actually from Baja Mexico and they actually have a little hint of cucumber So this is kind of just like a nice perfect little pair I would say the corn bread is a must It's fantastic It's so moist but yet you know crunchy on top Oh my God The mac and cheese is also a fan favorite The Nashville hot catfish is the best catfish I've ever had We love Nashville Hot and I've had Mississippi Fried Catfish on my menus for about a decade And we just thought that this would be a fun riff The seasoning though is just perfect man Oh man That's my favorite part Actually no tasting It's my favorite There you go So the first drink that I'm going to make for you is the punk Evans It has gray Well gin a lemon grass and ginger syrup A little bit of lime juice some watermelon ice And next up we're gonna do the hoot Do you who comes up with these

names I do big big outcast fan So this is kind of just like a riff on a passion fruit margarita But with some added health benefits from the blue Spirulina I've never been so excited to taste a drink before in my life Oh my gosh ho ho I feel like it has a coastal vibe but also still has this very like let me feel like you feel like you have walked into someone's home One of the things that we describe this restaurant was we want this place to feel like a home away from home Joyce is my mother and my daughter's uh middle name and the inspiration for the restaurant for I grew up on southern food My mom was a huge cook She had her own cooking club My grandma too And I thought if I had like you know if I could only do one restaurant and leave something behind it would be this And I think Sammy and Cassidy and my partners have really painted a picture that's more beautiful than I could ever imagine You know if I had a yacht I'd probably name it Dail Washington or Mariah Fairy I mean a girl can dream but at least this next find is real So I've always been a huge reader and during the pandemic I got so many requests for book recommendations that I decided to start an Instagram account and blog to share my favorite YA books And as I saw how excited people were about that I started to expand my blog to interview authors and bookstore owners And then seeing how excited people were I started to think about making my book curation more And so I started researching bookstores all across L A and I realized that there were no young adult focused bookstores and I really wanted to fill that gap in the market I put together a business plan and I presented it to my parents who were so excited about the idea and I'm just so happy that I was able to turn this into a reality It's been so much fun You guys She's 16 I was zit and lazy and sleeping all day I feel like I've just loved books my whole life I really credit my parents with my early love of reading because they would always read books to me when I was younger What is your favorite book of all time I know this is hard for a book lover That's such a hard question I would say I really love all the light we cannot see by Anthony That's probably my all time after I curated all of my favorite YA books I started to think about what else I wanted to have in the store And it's been really fun curating a variety of gift items I've also designed my own line of merchandise which has been really fun and I've been really happy seeing people respond to that These are all from a brand called the Word Cloud Classics and I love them so much I honestly want them for myself They're so beautiful This is the hunchback of Notre Dame I mean it's first of all it's like soft it's so well made and so beautiful So these are my four dogs here We are big dog people and I really wanted to have

something for all the pets who come in here because there's so many in this neighborhood I mean Starbucks Seriously I'm dying Look at the candles that she has here I mean are you kidding who designed These was actually a costume designer And then during the pandemic he started making candles and I'm so glad that I found him He's so talented They are so cute and he's local I love it I love L A So I've always been a huge fan of pop art and vintage comics So I started to design my own merchandise that was reader themed And it's been really fun coming up with captions and seeing people I worked with a graphic designer who really brought my ideas to life and then you have to see these OK look at this So look at this jacket and then there's the catch 22 on the back Tell me about these These are from an amazing brand called tribute project And the woman who designs them usually does uh music jackets but I commissioned book ones with my patches on them I cannot I spit it on one book I want to show you one of my favorite parts of the store This installation was made by one of my friends who is so talented His name is Rob Yonkers It's made out of all real book pages and book covers We have a lot of book signings We're actually starting our first book club which I'm so excited about Um And we also have a lot of children's events too So something for everyone I've always really loved Studio City and I can't believe how lucky we got to have a place here I feel like it draws a lot of people in and really I just wanted it to be somewhere where people of all ages would want to hang out Ok We have to take a quick break but there is so much more to share And boy are we having a good time or what Back to L A unscripted from on board the yacht Levi I'm your captain Dana Devin And whether it's a neighborhood staple or a bright new add on the block We love discovering the coolest small businesses and sharing them with you This lady on the cover of this one seems really intense like she knows what's up What is this one Yes Yes because she knows what's up about what she's doing It's just like uh just to bring your love back Love that Ok So this is so if you lose your love your love will come back to you with this candle Angel Botan botanical candles is about candles but it's not only about candles We also have like this uh um scents that that you use it Like for cleansing we have these soaps as well like they use it like for cleansing road opener like uh the organic soaps for Love Protection We got a like a a lot of stuff this starts like from my my my ancestors like from my family in Mexico they start like helping like like people like you know in the small towns you know like giving birth you know like when they get sick and you know they give like some herbs some teas and then we just got like really interesting and we that

I grew up with a so then I just started like my own business and here we are we're here in this location We're seven years ago But you don't have to be religious to use this No you don't have to be religious at all You just have to come you know and and tell us like what's going on you know and we'll be more than welcome to help you All right So I'm getting married soon Um Thank you very much What candle would you recommend for me Ok We I rec we recommend this one happy marriage for you to have a happy marriage all like every like all year like every moment you know with your partner you know like for your life This is so pretty I love the sparkles on it This is a perfect candle Ok I'm gonna take this one Is there anything else I need before I get married Yes I would like this one that is for marriage as well Oh cute It's a little couple and you just light it Ok great Now I'm set for life I really like this pink one Yes This one is for work Like a lot of people you know they've been looking for jobs you know and they they don't have you know sometimes the luck to you know get a job So they start lighting candles That's when it comes to this oil as well They just add a little oil into the candle and then you know it just people you know it makes the magic you know like if people get it's their job and then you light it and then you leave it light you live you live it light until they finish Yes I'm really proud to be a Mexican You know like to show you all this this product that uh that is is it true You know this product the people they've been using it you know it's been change making a change and there are a lot of life How cool is that And this excursion isn't over just yet Coming up cruising in with more neighborhood hot spots and locals back to L A unscripted from on board Levi in Newport Beach And as much as I love taking the scenic route here's what really floats my boat I have seen this place all over social media It is the most out of this world experience yet It's right here in the heart of Santa Monica Let's go float This is intimacy a play on the word intimacy CS E A because we're all about the ocean and the healing aspects of it It is a quantum wellness studio First and foremost this was established as a float center Jan the owner she floated and she was blown away and floatation meditation as we like to call it is floating in a very short 12 inches of water more salt than the dead And you just get into the Zen You turn off some senses and then other senses come to life Athletes love it because it's the the high concentration of salt is so good for muscles in the water with your own self So this is our Lulu's higher realm Galactic Crystal Intention the Galactic Crystal Intention tubs we brought them over from Brazil and they're giant bathtubs and they're for energetic soaking The idea is that you get into this

tub and you have something that you want to manifest an intention that you want to create for yourself OK Self care for the wind You guys have to check out intimacy All right I've got to manifest so out love you guys And since we're all about living local at this next fine to your must try list This is a just a such a historic um building just an amazing location right on the beach right on the boardwalk Uh We're delighted to be um to be taking part in Breast Cancer Awareness Month um Here at CAA Rama Uh We're partnering with our good friends at uh Providence Saint John's and their breast cancer research unit and a number of ways pure awareness point of view We um with the the beautiful beach facade is is uh being lit up in pink in the evenings for the whole month Times of you as you look uh north you'll see the pier uh in concert as well with the with the the the wheel up in pink everywhere you look around the hotel We we we're making sort of a touches of pink theme room attendants with beautiful pink headbands and ties in their hair and daff gents We've got some uh breast cancer awareness the pocket squares and then two touches around the room as well This is part of our real sense of being part of the community here Social responsibility is is a is a very important thing to us here at So we love a a uh a little make your own cocktail kit here at Hotel Casa de Ma And and this month uh we're running a a spicy paloma um in the room which is uh uh a tequila and uh and grapefruit cocktail with a nice dash of jalapeno to put some zing to it Not everybody wants to drink all the time But so we're running a fantastic mocktail down in teat as well This month of uh the breast cancer awareness uh we wanted to support other cause and we came up with like a mocktail So we call it a blush and roll a pear which are still in season uh grapefruit juice and just to balance a little bit acidity we just added a little bit of uh gross beta syrup a portion of the revenue from uh those uh mocktail cells will go to the Providence ST John's Hospital uh to help them on the research of the breast cancer Yeah So we're up here on the the pool deck here at Casa De Mar with uh arguably one of the best views in town And um we're excited to um be opening a brand new event space just below us but with the same view out over the beach and the ocean it's going to be called the Conservatory Um And in keeping with this sort of um part of us being part of a community here We're coming up at 100 years on the beach here so very much part of Santa Monica some of the nonprofits that we've been working with uh include Earth Echo which is Philip Cows um Ocean Foundation the Schmidt Ocean Institute and also uh the Bay Foundation ensuring that we work hand in hand and in the long term health and well being of the ocean right here

We're also developing an eco conscious menu We're working with the um the ocean conservationists to establish some species which are overly abundant in the ocean and actually cause a misbalance such as green crab um and and crawfish actually as Well so we're looking to ensure we get those on the menu and get them out of the ocean a little bit So the conservatory is a great space that can be used really for anything Um be it for obviously these sort of think d discussions but otherwise a regular meeting to a a baby shower and smaller weddings Um Anything where you just want one of the finest backdrops in all of Santa Monica What you see when you walk out of this pool deck is just nothing but ocean and beach Ok If you look just at the right hand side backdrop of the Santa Monica pier and then beyond that the Santa Monica mountains heading towards Malibu And sadly it's that time again I knew Schooner or later we'd have to get out of the water but all scripted you know you have my heart hook line and sinker Thank you so much The happiest hours for our h2o headquarters Where will we be next I haven't got a clue but we'll see you next time Good night everyone