

Where

METHOD

MEN

BY ROGER GRODY

Chefs constantly talk about technique. It's what separates the journeymen from the masters, and a disciplined adherence to it has been passed on in the brotherhood since the days of Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin and Auguste Escoffier, usually reinforced by veteran practitioners with heavy French accents. Classic technique is still a cornerstone of fine cuisine. However, a bold new generation of chefs are changing the rules and creating their own innovative techniques.



Deconstructed Bloody Mary from chef Ludovic Lefebvre, served at Breadbar's LudoBites pop-up

Classically trained, irreverent chef Ludovic ("Ludo") Lefebvre, formerly of L'Orangerie and Bastide, began showing off some new tricks at **Breadbar**, the L.A. bakery opened by Eric Kayser, whose boulangeries in Paris are world-renowned. The two Frenchman collaborated several times on an arrangement called LudoBites, in which Lefebvre created remarkable tasting menus at the casual eatery between the chef's restaurant assignments.

Occasionally, his dishes reflect deconstructivism at its best, such as a whimsical composition inspired by a Bloody Mary. On a single plate, a chili-inflected tomato sorbet is served with a vodka gelee and celery mousse, reminding us how a relatively simple dose of whimsy can translate into true culinary innovation. Last month, Lefebvre's pop-up dining concept was reprised at **Royal/T**, a Culver City art gallery/cafe, with a parade of so-called bistronomy dishes that included plenty of foamy deconstructivism. Look for Ludo Bites to turn up again in the spring, somewhere around town. [W](#)

THE BAZAAR BY JOSÉ ANDRÉS SLS Hotel at Beverly Hills, 465 S. La Cienega Blvd., L.A., 310.246.5555. Map H16 **BISTRO LQ** 8009 Beverly Blvd., L.A., 323.951.1088. Map I12 **BREADBAR** 8718 W. 3rd St., West Hollywood, 310.205.0124. Map I12 **THE DINING ROOM** The Langham Huntington Pasadena, 1401 S. Oak Knoll Ave., Pasadena, 626.585.6218. Map R21 **EVA RESTAURANT** 7458 Beverly Blvd., L.A., 323.634.0700. Map I13 **MÉLISSE** 1104 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, 310.395.0881. Map M8 **PROVIDENCE** 5955 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, 323.460.4170. Map I14 **ROYAL/T** 8910 Washington Blvd., Culver City, 310.559.6300. Map L11 **SONA** 401 N. La Cienega Blvd., L.A., 310.659.7708. Map I12