

EAT THIS

BY BRAD A. JOHNSON



Top 5 Birthday Tables

Celebrating your birthday at a restaurant with seven best friends should be a festive yet intimate affair. Most private rooms are just too large for only eight people, and nobody wants to put tables together in the middle of a crowded restaurant. Finding just the right balance isn't always easy, but these five tables are absolutely perfect for an intimate, private celebration.

THE RESTAURANT	THE TABLE	THE PARTY
1. THE RESTAURANT AT HOTEL BEL-AIR 701 STONE CANYON RD. L.A. 310.472.5234	Table One, a private French provincial-style dining room tucked into the kitchen (guests actually enter through the kitchen), with a window overlooking the chefs in action.	Table One seats from two to eight people. Chef Douglas Dodd tailors a six-course menu exclusively for your party. Price is fixed at \$70 per person at lunch and \$115 at dinner. Wine pairings extra. No outside wine allowed. Major holidays are already booked years in advance.
2. BASTIDE 8475 MELROSE PL. L.A. 323.651.5950	The Chef's Room, a private room separated from the wine cellar by only a glass wall. The minimalist chic room with a window into the kitchen was designed by famous Parisian designer Andrée Putman.	The Chef's Room seats six to 10 people. Chef Alain Giraud offers a choice of daily tasting menus, from six to 10 courses. Prices start at \$80 per person for food only. Wine pairings extra. No outside wine allowed.
3. PATINA 141 S. GRAND AVE. L.A. 213.972.3331	The Chef's Table, an extremely elegant, intimate private room adjoining the kitchen at the new Patina at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Guests enter through a door near the bar; an inside door opens to the kitchen. The gorgeous room was designed by Hagy Belzberg. Make it extra-special and purchase tickets to a concert next door.	The Chef's Table seats from two to 10 people. Special menus by chef Theo Schoenegger. Price for food only is fixed at \$100 per person for six courses or \$85 per person for four courses (early seating only). An eight-course black truffle dinner for 10 people with wine pairings is \$3,000, tax and gratuity included. Corkage, \$20/btl (\$40/btl champagne); waived with wine purchase.
4. O-BAR 8279 SANTA MONICA BLVD. WEST HOLLYWOOD 323.822.3300	The Cabana Booths, five of them, offer a dramatic alternative to a private room. The spacious cabanas are in the middle of the restaurant, but each is outfitted with floor-to-ceiling drapes that can be closed for privacy and intrigue.	The cabanas seat six to nine people. Guests order from chef Joseph Antonishek's à la carte menu of upscale comfort foods, including lobster mac 'n' cheese, chicken pot pie and an extraordinary malted chocolate shake spiked with Jack Daniels.
5. CHI 8401 SUNSET BLVD. WEST HOLLYWOOD 323.848.3884	The Red Room, the sexiest private room ever built. The custom-made table resembles a giant ruby, which reflects ad infinitum on the mirrored ceiling.	The Red Room seats six to 10 people. Guests order from the à la carte pan-Asian menu, including from the dim sum cart, which stops at the door but can't come inside because of the step-up.