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WHAT'S DOING IN

Los Angeles

By HILARY de VRIES

As any Angeleno knows, the old Woody Allen jokes about Los Angeles's cultural and culinary deficiencies have long passed their sell-by date. With the opening next month of the Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall at the Music Center, and the wave of new restaurants that have opened across the city in the last year, Los Angeles bears little if any relation to the sun-addled metropolis Mr. Allen parodied in "Annie Hall" more than 25 years ago.

At first glance, the soaring stainless-steel Disney Concert Hall, the new \$274 million home for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Master Chorale, looks to be the kid sister of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, bristling with more of Mr. Gehry's gleaming metallic wings. But anyone who knew the philharmonic's previous home, the cavernous Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, will instantly appreciate the new space.

The hall's scheduled opening on Oct. 23 not only inaugurates a new cultural era in Los Angeles, but like a capstone finally laid in place, also completes the city's dazzling architectural triptych of the Getty Center (1997) and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels (last year) — reminders of the city's richness.

Where to Eat

The Pig, 612 North La Brea Avenue, just south of Hollywood (323) 935-1116, serves Memphis-style barbecue in a cheery red-and-white diner. Don't miss the pulled pork, apple-wood-smoked brisket, and Karo pecan pie. While the Pig doesn't serve liquor, it does carry boutique soft drinks including Nehi sodas, Blenheim ginger ale and Cheerwine. Lunch and dinner daily, until 10 p.m. Dinner for two, \$25.