

# LOS ANGELES CONFIDENTIAL

SIZZLE | Power Bar

## A Leggy Knockout

Hollywood's Spider Club is creeping to the top of the "It" clubs. | STEVE BASILONE

In the first week of October, Hollywood's new hot spot was hatched. The Spider Club's arrival was subdued, with the entrance nestled quietly in a tiny alleyway on Vine, just north of Hollywood, but since Spider's first step, its intimate setting, dynamic crowds, and superior service have established it as a beacon that shines brighter than most.

"I've been coming to LA for about a year," says owner/creator Steve Adelman, "and I noticed that there were a lot of lounges in Hollywood and West Hollywood. But what I really thought was lacking was a place where you could get served and be comfortable." It seems that LA is digging the comfort, as Hollywood's superelite have already taken to the dimly lit Moroccan style that the Spider Club dishes out. "Lounges can get crazy—they're packed—and people just kind of throw drinks at you. We wanted to have something more service-oriented. So far, it's worked out pretty well."

With seven highly successful clubs in Boston, New York, and LA under the direction of Adelman and partner-in-crime John Lyons, "pretty well" is putting it mildly. This

becomes ever more apparent when you realize that one of them also oversees über-opulent dance club Avalon, located just downstairs. "Avalon is your big-room experience, whereas Spider Club is the more intimate, everyone-knows-your-name kind of place," adds Adelman. But *Cheers* this is not. Sam Malone never served up drinks to the likes of Nicolas Cage, Benicio Del Toro, Cameron Diaz, and Vince Vaughn. And Cliff Clavin certainly never sipped a pint while snuggled in a bed, like the ornate one that sits like ringside bleachers in front of the dance floor at Spider.

"We wanted to design something comfortable," says Adelman about the plush cushions and alluring wraparound booths that make any spot the best seat in the house. The music ain't half bad, either. Spider spins an assorted mix that keeps the small dance floor active, and, if you're lucky, it occasionally inspires a guest or two to dance with one of the stripper's poles.

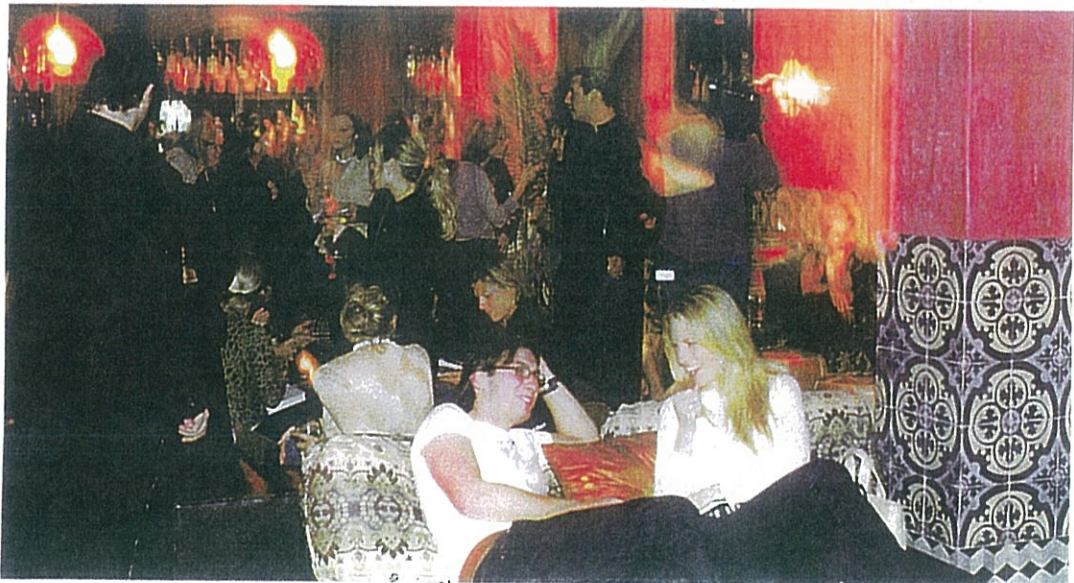
The only thing that has been missing is a little something to nosh on as you sip one of the killer cocktails. But never fear, Los Angeles; Spider's kitchen doors will soon swing open. "The menu's going to be

pretty eclectic," says Adelman, "and it won't be big portions. I wouldn't say anything as small as tapas, but something in between. Things that are kind of fun, like crab cakes and spring rolls—you know, the sexy finger foods that people want to eat late at night."

It appears that this Spider's web is nearly complete, already reaching the buzz level that has moved some to climb fences and attempt stealth roof sneak-ins in order to gain admittance. But what's on the horizon for this sleek arachnid? With another sister Spider Club recently opened in New York, and more seemingly on the way in other prominent metropolises, it seems that this new form of lounge is here to stay.

"Our recipe for success is to focus on all the details and recognize that sometimes, less is more. In the future, we're just going to continue to do that. You know, we can't stop here. I really think what's happening in this area is amazing and I love Hollywood." Well, Spider, Hollywood loves you, too. *Spider Club*, 7735 North Vine Street, Hollywood, 323-462-8900.

ALONG CAME SPIDER: Lounging at Hollywood's newest hot spot.



photograph by Lester Cole/WireImage.com