

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

BY GARY BAUM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BETSY WINCHELL



BUZZED: Jean Shim-Min and Craig Min in Silver Lake.

PARTNERS IN SUBLIME *Craig Min and Jean Shim-Min confound caffeine fiends with their genre-bending java joint Lamill*

Behold thy enemy, Eastside gentrification phobes! When Craig Min and Jean Shim-Min opened Lamill in January, the hood's ornery old guard immediately took to slurping some serious haterade. After all, the stretch of Silver Lake Boulevard that the couple's coffee boutique-slash-gourmet café had breached is still mostly known for auto-body shops and the scruffy indie rock nexus Spaceland. The faux-ostrich-leather chairs, the five-course dessert tastings, the tableside \$12 hand-drip Chemex service... All of it amounted to an over-the-top red flag being waved at the locals, who were already on high-end alert thanks to the \$500 iPod-enabled ceramic gramophones for sale down the street at design den A+R and the \$3 million homes tucked away in the nearby hills. "We were a little bit of a shock for the neighborhood, that's for sure," says Shim-Min. The couple's Alhambra-based, primarily wholesale coffee company

(pronounced *la-MILL*) had already made a name for itself by becoming the go-to bean in top local kitchens from Bastide to Providence. No surprise, then, that the latter's chef, Michael Cimarusti, and pastry poo-bah, Adrian Vasquez, jumped at the chance to curate Lamill's menu. (Choices run from house-cured Tasmanian sea trout with wasabi crème fraîche and watermelon radish to deconstructed s'mores topped with kumquat peels.) Hubby handles the coffee production—"I drink five to seven cups a day, and taste maybe 40 more"—while wifey, who previously worked in TV production, oversees Lamill's studiously eye-candy-ish aesthetics. Neither seems concerned about the backlash still seething at their glass doors; they're confident the naysayers will eventually come around. "Twenty years ago, coffee was Maxwell House or Yuban," Min says. "Tastes change." ☒

CRAIG'S HOTS Silk-encrusted jackets from Alexander McQueen; the 2009 black Tesla Roadster; Parks BBQ on Vermont **JEAN'S HOTS** Manolo Blahnik's Polluck kidskin booties with pony fur heels; Din Tai Fung dumplings; Monteverdi Young furniture **CRAIG'S NOTS** Three-button Hugo Boss suits; Swedish heavy metal; souped-up "rice rocket" cars **JEAN'S NOTS** Jimmy Choos; any song sung in a K-Town karaoke room; Danish design