

F/OO/D & /D/R/I/N/K

MEDITERRANEAN DREAMS

Restaurateur Nick Mathers balked when his traveling companion suggested they stop on Kastellorizo, an island just off the Turkish coast. The then-18-year-old Australian was searching for vibrant nightlife, not a sleepy beach town. But as luck would have it, he fell in love—not just with a girl, but with the place. While the girl is long gone, the idyllic memory of that locale remains, reimagined as **Kassi Club**. Located in the former Goldie's space, the Greek-inspired restaurant on West Third Street—which spotlights wood-fired meats and flower-strewn cocktails—links Mathers' tranquil recollections with the dazzling, celebrity-dotted experiences his Wish You Were Here portfolio of eateries in New York and Los Angeles (including Little Ruby, Eveleigh and Éléphante) represent. The decor forgoes the expected blue and white color scheme in favor of earth tones, and Goldie's slick green banquettes and patterned tiles have been swapped out for

imported stone, rattan ceilings, pale oak floors, arched doorways and leather chairs reminiscent of ones Mathers spotted at a taverna on a sun-drenched beach. A woven macrame hanging, created on-site by Mariella Motilla, who was assisted by her mother and brother, dominates one wall. Mathers finds inspiration everywhere he goes. "When I'm on holiday, I'm always on an island," he says. "That's what I'm trying to bring back and share." 323.545.6743, kassiclub.com —Abigail Stone

The mezze mix at Kassi Club includes pita, crudités, taromosalata and whipped eggplant.

