



## Soul City Revival 1300 Fillmore breathes life back into SF's jumpin' Jazz legacy

For some, San Francisco's Fillmore District conjures images of a vibrant bygone era, where Jazz reigned supreme, and the Fillmore was the destination of every devotee, the heart of the city's rich musical culture. And even though winds of commercial change are sweeping bits of history away, 1300 on Fillmore is resurrecting nights past.

David Lawrence and Monetta White envisioned a tributary timeless Fillmore jazz lounge when they set out to open 1300, a project six years in the making. The authentic soul food, fine wines, swanky '50s décor, warm mood lighting, scores of black-and-white photographs of jazz and blues legends consuming an entire focally designated wall, and, of course, those precious velvety tunes, all intricately blend to transport you to the days of Jimmy Giuffre and Chet Baker. The live sounds of blues rhythms and jazz ballads from Lady Memphis and a pick-up band, with the succulent smells of soul food and the ghostly images of shuffling bee-bop boys and girls on a screen embedded in the bar's mirror backdrop work to dazzle every sense. SF interior designer Colum McCartan has succeeded in cultivating a distinct feeling of opulence somehow lacking in pretension.

British-born and French-trained, Lawrence's foray into Southern comfort food appears a leap, but he declares sim-

ply that, no matter where you are in the world, "comfort food is comfort food," citing American grits, Jamaican cornmeal and Italian polenta as classic examples. Lawrence was one of a handful of premiere chefs invited to the James Beard House in New York to prepare Southern cuisine in homage to Black History Month. Having no knowledge of or experience with such cuisine, he had only his Jamaican heritage, technical skills, and culinary innovation upon which to rely—and proved a success. "You can't stay static," he says. "You are only as good as your last meal."

Leaving cuisine to her husband, White oversees the sights and sounds of 1300. Surrounded by music all through childhood, she infuses the space with her passion for jazz and soulful music. There's no house band, so each live performance is new and different from the last—Paula West one night, then the latest unknown talent the next. "It's exactly how I imagine it must have been back in the day, where people just came in and jammed," White says.

Backed by the city and locals (who love to pick out faces of the greats who graced older Fillmore's jazz clubs from the photo wall), 1300 is not simply an impressive lounge, but a recreation of the past. "We're glad that we're putting the Fillmore area back on the map," White says. "It has so much history." **Charity Anais**