



**Q: What was your most memorable meal of the year? (good and/or bad)**

*Josh Lurie, [Food GPS](#)*: For 2008, my top L.A. meal was probably at **Rustic Canyon**. Chef Evan Funke seamlessly transitioned from Spago and delivered a terrific market-driven dinner in September.

**Q: What were the top newcomers of '08?**

*Jonathan Gold, [LA Weekly](#)*: Palate Food + Wine, obviously; Osteria Mozza, Drago Centro; Animal; Moles La Tia; Anisette; Comme Ca; La Mill; and the regimes of **Evan Funke at Rustic Canyon** and **Laurent Quenieux at Vermont**.

*Vinny Dotolo, Chef/Owner, [Animal](#)*: Old restaurant but, new chef **Evan Funke at Rustic Canyon** yummy stuff!

**Q: What was the best dining neighborhood of the year? And for 2009?**

*H.C., [LA & OC Foodventures](#)*: I think Culver City is still running strong but Santa Monica is doing some great things with **Bar Pintxo** and **Anisette** alongside **favorites like Rustic Canyon, Josie** and **Wilshire**.