

Admire the wintery wonderland from inside River Café



FLARE's roundup of the best meeting-up-with-friends hot spots for the holidays

The frosty stroll to Prince's Island Park's **River Café** may cool your jingle-belled nerves, but the trip will be worth it because Jack Frost has got nothing on chef Scott Pohorelic. Even the biggest Scrooge will get into the spirit with a taste of Pohorelic's seasonal (i.e. super-fresh) menu.

**CALGARY**

After dinner, sip a Frozen Grape, another guaranteed holiday merry maker. [www.river-cafe.com](http://www.river-cafe.com) —Lincoln Phillip



The Lingnan's retro-chic decor

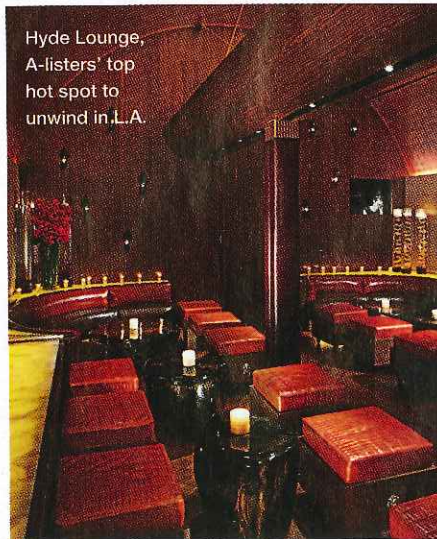
**EDMONTON**

Celebrity haunt Mr. Chow finds its match in **The Lingnan**, a chic Chinese restaurant frequented by the city's chattering classes. The dining room makes the perfect holiday hideaway for discerning urbanistas who prefer Bruce Lee to Bing Crosby and pork dumplings to pumpkin pie. Try the green-onion cakes and manager Miles Quon's newest seasonal libation, the China Moon. 10582 104th St. ● You'd expect to see **The Bank Ultra Lounge** in a Candace Bushnell

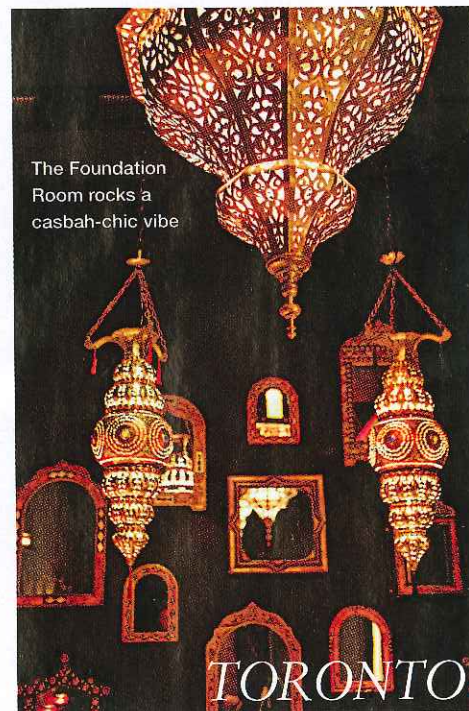
novel rather than in Edmonton. Boasting buttery-soft leather seating, mod lighting and a crowd out of a *Top Model* audition, this metropolitan sparkler is the trendiest spot in town to get your yuletide on. 10765 Jasper Ave. —Misty Harris

**LOS ANGELES**

The exclusive haunts of young Hollywood just got even more so with the opening of **Hyde Lounge**. If you want to party inside with the likes of Paris Hilton, be warned: gaining entry into this intimate space is about as rare as a yeti sighting. Still, if you arrive super-early and manage to get in, you'll be treated to vaulted copper ceilings, gourmet cocktails and "small plates" by famed Japanese chef Katsuya Uechi. 8029 West Sunset Blvd. —Amanda Luttrell Garrigus



Hyde Lounge, A-listers' top hot spot to unwind in L.A.



The Foundation Room rocks a casbah-chic vibe

**TORONTO**

Attention femmes-about-town, urban scene-sters and foodie social climbers, don't rush all at once, but **Maro**, super-chef David Adje's new supper club, is now open. The 14,000-sq.-ft. Liberty Village venue is the third addition to the Brant Group's empire and features all the A-list accoutrements that you've come to expect: sexy decor, cool beats and an eclectic clientele. Gather with your gaggle over shrimp mai thais and steak tartare from the Euro-Asian menu, or kick back with a bottle of grand cru in the VIP lounge. 135 Liberty St. ● Baby, it's cold outside. What's a jet-setter stuck in wind chill to do? Grab your fellow chic-ettes and head to **The Foundation Room**. This Middle Eastern wonderland with its casbah-chic decor is celebrating its one-year anniversary. Organic grape leaves stuffed with Muscovy duck confit and squash dumplings in sage cream and Kashkavel cheese—need we say more? Just make sure to save room for the mint-infused chocolate fondue with cardamom beignets. 19 Church St. —Aya McMillan



# FLARE

A full-page photograph of Beyoncé is the background for the magazine cover. She is wearing a vibrant red, draped, V-neck gown and has her long, wavy hair styled. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera, with her right hand raised to her hair.

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