

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

Best Mexican Restaurants in the U.S.

April 2013

Babita Mexicuisine, Los Angeles

Chef-owner Roberto Berrelleza serves Nouvelle Mexican cuisine behind a nondescript San Gabriel façade—and the crowded dining room confirms that you shouldn't judge a restaurant by its menu cover. Berrelleza, who is from the northern Mexican state Sinaloa and who spent a significant amount of his restaurant experience in the front of house before going out on his own, applies a personal touch to his *cochinita pibil*, filet habanero-glazed *camarones* “topolobampo,” and *chiles en nogada*. His autumn-only chile relleno served with dried fruit and pecans is one of the finest renditions stateside.