

Jeune et Jolie Brings a Feminine Mystique and Frog Legs to Carlsbad

You can see Chef Andrew Bachelier's commitment to Franco roots in three dishes: the frog legs, the rabbit, and the bread

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You can see it

Jeune et Jolie
 2659 State Street,
 Carlsbad
[lejeuneetjolie](#)

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Seared scallops with sunchokes and abalone mushrooms

BEST DISHES

Bread with Normandy

Butter

Frog Legs

Scallops

curved arches of the front windows, the gossamer-white café curtains hung on freshly polished brass, the attenuated glassware, the dining room's lean-close twilight, the booths' pastel velour (or is it velvet? I'm not good with textiles).

Two women in my life—my girlfriend and a colleague—found Jeune et Jolie to be distinctly feminine. I did, too. What defines femininity is not for me to say. I'm merely passing along this observation, and strongly

agreeing. (If it sounds like I'm going on a tangent out of fear of reprisal, I assure you I'm going on a tangent out of fear of reprisal.)

But here's why this matters: Restaurant design in San Diego over the last decade has been rigidly masculine. The streets are addled with noisome man-caves. It's incredibly easy to find one with stained concrete floors, decrepit garage doors, hard metal chairs, jagged-edge woods, severe lines, and brooding colors. That's why when we see a restaurant with a softer, quieter elegance like Jeune

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The exterior of Jeune et Jolie on State Street

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restaurant.

LA-based Bells + Whistles designed it as a modern riff on classic French bistros, inspired by Resnick's and Bachelier's travels through the country. Both nights we visited, we seemed to have discovered a secret current of fashion-aware San Diegans. One of the perks of beachside living is being able to dress down forever. But every diner we saw seemed to have opened their closet doors earlier and heard the voices of Anna Wintour and Tom Ford. You get the feeling customers view a night at Jeune et Jolie as an *event*, a place for the good clothes.

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