

ARROYO VINO

Sunday Dinner and a Movie “Twenty Feet From Stardom”

Serves Two, Includes Wine
85

Order Today;
Pick-up

Saturday, August 8th
505-983-2100

please inform us of any allergies or dietary restrictions

Watermelon Salad

garden cucumbers & basil, local heirloom tomatoes,
pickled red onion, red wine vinaigrette

Bake-at-Home Buttermilk Biscuits

honey butter

Roast-at-Home Double Cut Heritage Pork Chops

roasted garlic mashed potatoes, bourbon mustard glaze

Southern Style Braised AV Garden Greens
bacon, garden onions, red chile flakes

Buttermilk Chess Pie

a southern classic

Populis Wabi-Sabi Red Mendocino County CA 2018

A blend of Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Syrah, and Carignan, this wine is surprisingly fresh, bright, and sassy. Just like the singers in the movie, it has an expressive energy behind it that just can't be stopped.

Flavors of ripe red fruit dominate, backed up by elements of fungi and freshly rained on earth. Gutsy enough to sing a duet with the pork chop yet finessed enough to let the watermelon salad shine.

Movie available to stream on multiple platforms

Synopsis provided by James Selby, former professional actor, lifelong movie buff, wine rep extraordinaire, and all-around super star human.

“Not everyone is cut out for stardom,” observes Bruce Springsteen at the beginning of the utterly absorbing, exuberant 2014 Academy Award winning documentary “Twenty Feet From Stardom,” about the essential role of – mostly - African-American background singers. It also explores the various reasons and forces many have never managed to launch successful solo careers. Director Morgan Neville (“Won’t You Be My Neighbor”) gives center stage to the soaring, talented voices that shaped the sound of 20th century pop music.

Neville unearthed a treasure of archival concert and TV footage featuring the glory days of these singers like Darlene Love, a founding member of the Blossoms and a pillar the notorious producer Phil Spector’s Wall of Sound. At one point she’s reduced to cleaning houses. We meet Merry Clayton whose howling tones of “rape, murder, it’s just a shot away” haunt the chorus of the Rolling Stones “Gimme Shelter.” And, Judith Hill, the youngest of the group, toured as the opening act for John Legend. (In 2013, Hill was inexplicably eliminated from the fourth season of “The Voice,” the show Legend later joined as a judge.) Claudia Lennear, a onetime “Ikette” for Ike and Tina Turner and inspiration for Mick Jagger’s “Brown Sugar,” became a teacher in the 80’s. Male singers make an appearance. Luther Vandross backed up David Bowie and was one of the few to breakout into a solo career before his untimely death in 2005. But women, who nearly unanimously honed their skills in the choirs of churches, are the torch carriers of the art form. You hear the gospel tradition of call-and-response in songs like Ray Charles’ “What’d I Say.”

The music is inspiring and celebratory, but this really is about their stories, revealing, funny, bittersweet first-hand accounts of what it’s like to be invisible in the spotlight. Don’t take my word for it; you’ll get testimony from Stevie Wonder, Bette Midler, Jagger and Sting along the way.

Footlights: One of my favorite backup singers, former roommate and cherished friend, who went on to a solo career is Perla Batalla. Notably, Perla made several world tours with Leonard Cohen, even making a stop in 1993 at the Paolo Solari amphitheater here in Santa Fe (sadly demolished). Good news: NM audiences see Perla, front and center, when touring allows