



**HANKAMER
& ASSOCIATES**
BROKERS, L.L.C.

RESTAURANT UPDATE

October 2006

BLANCO'S BAR & GRILL

3406 West Alabama Houston (713) 439-0072

This week we have juxtaposed two very different music venues, which offer food as a sideline. Both contribute mightily to the rich and diverse cultural mix which is Houston.

Once inside Blanco's one could imagine being in Gruene, Round Top, Dripping Springs, or some other 'pure Texas' small town honky tonk. The last place that would come to mind to find Blanco's would be...right next to River Oaks! But yes, an authentic gut-bucket country music dance hall is right in our back yard, complete with table shuffleboard, dusty deer heads whose antlers are used as targets for damp beer napkin rings pitched by lonesome cowboys at the bar, rowdy bumper stickers pinned here and there, and most of all, lots of just-plain-folks who come to dance and to have a good time. And check your 'attitude' at the door-Blanco's is for real people. On the circuit for good Texas honky tonk bands, Blanco's does charge a modest cover for most bands. Some nights during the week are 'open-mike' nights, when guitar pickers can get up on stage for a few numbers just by signing up on the list. Blanco's is also open for lunch, with Chicken Fried Steak Mondays, Bratwurst or Jalapeno Sausage Tuesdays, Red Beans & Rice w/ Sausage on Wednesday, and so on. Evenings Sandwiches, Appetizers, Nachos, Burgers, and some Tex Mex are available (Kitchen open until 10 PM Tuesday-Friday and 'till 3PM on Mondays. Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Monday nights.

CEZANNE JAZZ CAFE (Above the Black Labrador)

4100 Montrose Houston (713) 522-9621

First of all, don't be deterred by the postage stamp – and always full – parking lot in front. There is free parking in back, and in a nice garage! Cezanne's is only open Friday and Saturday, and has full bar service, but only limited food service from the nice pub below. The big draw to Cezanne is the world-class jazz provided by local, regional, and national talent. Cover charges range from \$10-15. The audience is frequently peppered with musicians who come to hear fellow artists from New Orleans, New York, LA, and of course Houston, many of whom perform professionally here and on the road. Many performers are recording artists, and some are affiliated with the Houston Symphony. Recent acts include the Latin Jazz Quintet, Vocalist Bryan Anthony and the Gary Norian Trio, the David Caceres Quartet, and Pianist Bob Henschen with Bill Hieronymus (bass) and Keith Karnaky (drums). All shows are 9PM-1AM, so the timing is perfect to settle in for an evening of music after a nice dinner on the town. Being jazz, and being that many of the artists appear in different combinations with each other from show to show, there is much improvisation and often excitement, as old standards and new compositions are performed in a new and original way, often giving rise to spontaneous applause from the knowledgeable and appreciative audiences. If Cezanne were in Paris, one would expect to find it perhaps in the Quartier Latin on the Rue de la Huchette, hidden away downstairs off a narrow cobblestone street.

For more information on Hankamer Commercial or any of our current listings, please visit our website at www.hankamer.com, or call Ray Hankamer at 713.789.7060, ext.1205. Your comments are welcome: rhankamer@hankamer.com

Note: By way of qualifications for reviewing restaurants, Hankamer has owned and operated numerous restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, discotheques and banquet halls over the last forty years; he has travelled to over 70 countries and has studied and lived in Europe for over three years; he was co-owner of a home delivery wine of the month club and imported his own wine labels for years.

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