

- Shopping Sample

99 Cent Stores – 818-999-5979 Woodland Hills Store

*Shop Like A Peasant, Live like a King*

In a town brimming with starving artists, the 99 Cents Store chains have become LA's unsung Angel of Mercy... or better stated, Angel of Macaroni and Cheese. It's pure kitsch and kitchen supplies where "cheap" equals "chic" in this fluorescent-lit bargain store where you can find everything from household detergent, to bananas and bread, to band-aids and hand cream. There's even a toy section where, on a good day, you can find an overstock of Scrappy Doo Scratch and Sniff Stickers, two for a dollar. More exciting than the inexpensive price is the quality, where brand names are prominently displayed, saving you triple what you'd pay at a high end grocery store. And judging from the parking lot, not just financially challenged folk have discovered this bargain haven: lots of smart Angelinos were able to purchase their Beamers from the money they saved at the 99 Cent Store.

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- Entertainment Sample

The Conga Room

5364 Wilshire Blvd. 323-549-9765

Homemade Salsa in *New York City* ???? Nope, Los Angeles

Every Friday night women in slit skirts and men in silk slacks crowd the upstairs parlor of the low-lit Conga Room for the chance to wiggle their hips, wrap their arms around complete strangers, and be instructed. It's not dominatrix: ... it's salsa! Men line up on one side of the room, women line up on the other, and a dashing instructor teaches Angelinos the fine art of shaking their bootie Latin Style. The pace of the lesson is fast, and so is the music. But with a little practice and a well stocked bar close by, it's not long before you can live the Viva Loca and look hotter than a chili pepper doing it. Lessons begin promptly at 8:00 and cost ten dollars. For an additional five dollars, you can strut your stuff all night long to a live salsa band.