



By Elena Kadwany

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About this blog: I am a perpetually hungry twenty-something journalist, born and raised in Menlo Park and currently working at the Palo Alto Weekly as education and youth staff writer. I graduated from USC with a major in Spanish and a minor in jo... (More)

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Cetrella now open in Los Altos

Uploaded: Aug 10, 2015

Cetrella, a longtime Mediterranean restaurant in Half Moon Bay, is opening a second location in Los Altos Tuesday, Aug. 11.

The new outpost at 400 Main St. is large, with a 90-seat dining room and outdoor patio. Cetrella No. 2 will be serving up similar food ? Mediterranean and California cuisine ? under the leadership of Executive Chef Michael Ellis, whose resume includes a recent stint at Local Union 271 in Palo Alto, three years at the Old Pro in Palo Alto as well as Michelin-starred Dry Creek Kitchen in Healdsburg, Penthouse Club and Steakhouse in San Francisco and Hult's Restaurant in Los Gatos.

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A view from the Cetrella Los Altos dining room onto First Street. Photo courtesy Eric Wolfinger/Cetrella.

A sample dinner menu includes grilled Half Moon Bay artichokes, fritto misto, grilled Spanish octopus, seared Hudson Valley foie gras, wood-fired pizzas and homemade pastas. A section is dedicated to grilled items ? seasonal vegetables, swordfish, salmon, angus beef, wagyu beef ? made with only olive oil, salt and pepper.

The restaurant has been busily documenting the kitchen's opening preparations on social media, [posting](#)

Facebook photos of dishes like gazpacho with housemade toast, piel de sapo melon and basil sorbet; local organic heirloom tomatoes with watermelon, cucumber, pickled red onion and a balsamic-fig gastrique; and a pan-roasted duck breast with peach relish and a corn and fava bean succotash, to name a few.



Above: Cetrella Los Altos' pan-roasted duck breast. Photo courtesy Eric Wolfinger/Cetrella.

Check out the original Cetrella's [menu](#) to get more of a sense of the food.

There's also a full bar, so expect cocktails. The wine list offers a "wide-ranging library of international wines" with vintages from more than 10 countries, according to the press release. There's also syrah from Cetrella's own private cellars and cabernet from Cetrella's sister enterprise, Liquid Sky Vineyards of Moon Mountain in Sonoma.

The bar and lounge area seats 20 guests at tables and 11 at the counter. Local musicians will perform live jazz there on Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Cetrella Los Altos will be open seven days a week, serving lunch weekdays, dinner nightly and brunch on weekends.

Cetrella first [opened in Half Moon Bay](#) in 2001 under the ownership of Paul Shenkman, who now owns Sam's Chowder House in Half Moon Bay and [Palo Alto](#). He sold Cetrella in 2006, after the restaurant garnered both local and national attention in Gourmet Magazine, Wine Spectator and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Shenkman named the restaurant after a valley on the island of Capri, Italy.

Comments

Posted by **Nancy**, a resident of Woodside: other, + 3 people like this
on Aug 13, 2015 at 8:42 am

Cetrella Half Moon Bay has long been a happy destination for us, so this is great news for times when driving to the coast isn't easy. The owner, M'hamed Bahet, gets everything right: the food, service, and ambiance are always perfect.

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