

Culture

Oak + Violet restaurant makes debut in new Menlo Park hotel

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Menlo Park is home to a new hotel ... and a new restaurant. Today, Oak + Violet will make its debut at the Park James Hotel, a new boutique property on El Camino Real.

Executive chef Mike Gadd and general manager Reed Woogerd will oversee all of the culinary offerings at the hotel, from full service at the restaurant and the courtyard bar to the corporate/private dining functions.

Both come to the Bay Area from Columbus, Ohio. Gadd's 15-year résumé includes Veritas, L'Entibes and other locally prominent high-end restaurants. Woogerd was formerly president of the Corso Ventures restaurant group.

At Oak + Violet, they'll focus on California's agricultural bounty with a seasonal, locally sourced menu. Inaugural offerings include a Stuffed Whole Branzino Romesco with roasted fennel, artichokes, olives and peppers; Fall Quinoa & Honey Crisp Apple Salad; the vegan Impossible Slider; and such shared bites as Pacific oysters, charcuterie and beef tartare.

Signature sips featured on the craft cocktail menu are the El Camino, with El Silencio mezcal, aperol, fresh grapefruit and lime, and rosemary; and the Violet, a limoncello, bubbly and blueberry concoction.

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The O + V will launch with dinner service tonight, then add breakfast, lunch and brunch in the coming weeks. The timeline: Breakfast service will be added Oct. 15, followed by the lunch and O + V Bar and Courtyard menus and cocktails on Oct. 22. Sunday brunch will start on Oct. 28 and Saturday brunch on Nov. 10.

Details, reservations: 1400 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; 650-304-3880; www.parkjames.com.

Source: [The Mercury News - Lifestyle](#)



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