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LOCAL BLOGS



By Elena Kadavy

E-mail Elena Kadavy

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...

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Oak + Violet to open in Menlo Park hotel

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Oak + Violet, the restaurant inside Menlo

Park's new Park James Hotel, will open for dinner on Monday, Oct. 8.

The [61-room boutique hotel](#) officially opened at 1400 El Camino Real two weeks ago.

A press release describes Oak + Violet as serving "California craft" cuisine, with locally sourced, seasonal dishes like Dungeness crab toast and a whole-roasted Petaluma chicken. Executive Chef Mike Gadd, who comes with 15 years of cooking experience in Columbus, Ohio, is overseeing the hotel's culinary program.



Diners can enjoy small bites, wine, beer and cocktails in a courtyard outside Oak + Violet at the Park James Hotel in Menlo Park. Photo courtesy Park James Hotel.

Oak + Violet's dinner menu is split into "shared bites," "grains and greens," entrees, sides and desserts. Appetizers include bread served with salt-cured local yogurt, huckleberry jam and olive oil; mini lobster tacos, steak tartare and oysters. For entrees, there's a stuffed whole branzino fish with roasted fennel, artichokes, olives and peppers; a toasted farro risotto with baby spinach, butternut squash puree, mascarpone cheese and toasted hazelnuts; and a cast-iron bone-in filet with roasted shallots, fennel, parsnip puree and bone-marrow butter, among other dishes.

Dessert includes panna cotta, doughnut bread pudding and salted caramel pudding.

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