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THE STATE HOTEL ANNOUNCES RESTAURANT AND BAR AND CONFIRMS MARCH 2019 OPENING

Seattle landmark building on corner of Second and Pike is being brought back to life as an urban hotel featuring a ground-floor restaurant and an extensive architectural redesign



Caption: Artistic rendering of The State Hotel (Credit: The State Hotel)

SEATTLE, Wash. (December 19, 2018) – The State Hotel, on track to open in March 2019, unveiled additional details about the independent hotel as it prepares to enter the Seattle market, including the name of its restaurant and bar on the ground floor: Ben Paris. The hotel is being reconstructed in the landmark Eitel Building, which was originally built in 1904 as a medical–dental building. Located next to Pike Place Market, the 91-room hotel will provide visitors with expansive views, a diverse collection of artwork and a dynamic culinary and bar experience.

The hotel's restaurant, Ben Paris, is named after one of the building's original occupants, who owned and operated a restaurant and bar in the basement called "Paris Cigars, Lunch & Cards." Ben Paris himself exuded a passion for bringing people together, and the restaurant will embody his essence as an energetic, creative and welcoming space that integrates seamlessly with the hotel lobby and brings a blend of nostalgia and intrigue to the neighborhood.

The restaurant is being conceptualized by its general manager, Reid Kendall, who has brought together a dynamic and talented group, including Quinton Stewart as executive chef and Abigail Gullo as bar manager. Kendall formerly ran Gemma at The Bowery Hotel in NYC's East Village, and more recently Tallulah's on Capitol Hill, in Seattle. Stewart has worked at the Waverly Inn in New York City, Hitchcock in Seattle and Maria Hines' Tilth. The menu will offer an imaginative spin on classic American fare, with bold, straightforward flavors. In addition to serving morning, noon and night, the restaurant will offer grab-and-go and delivery options to hotel guests and locals.

"We are extremely excited to share what we have been working on," said Stewart. "People who come to Ben Paris can expect generous hospitality in an energetic atmosphere. Our kitchen will emphasize flavorful and surprising dishes that celebrate quality ingredients, honest cooking techniques and Seattle's cultural roots."

Ben Paris' cocktail program will be led by Gullo, an award-winning mixologist. She spent the last three years at Compère Lapin in New Orleans, where she helped design an extensive cocktail program. She is using her seasoned background to craft an ambitious cocktail menu that perfectly complements the diverse food offerings.

"I am so excited to have the opportunity to work in the Seattle bar scene, where people are celebrating mixology in cool and creative ways," said Gullo. "My hope is that the cocktail menu, along with the wine and craft beer selection, echoes the spirit of Seattle with an unexpected twist."

The design of Ben Paris will reflect The State Hotel as a whole, which will feature diverse artwork throughout the communal spaces and guestrooms, including wall coverings and portraits commissioned from Northwest artist Kate Blairstone. The largest art feature on the project is a five-story mural by well-known street artist Shepard Fairey of Obey Giant. The

mural, “Fire Sale,” was recently installed on the west façade of the building and has quickly become an iconic sight along the Seattle skyline, adding more color and life to the downtown area.

Architectural firm Weinstein A+U and general contractor Exxel Pacific are working to carefully preserve this historic building—originally built in 1904—while converting it into a 91-room hotel and restaurant. The scope of construction involved a complete seismic retrofit and bringing the building up to current building code, including new elevators and mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. The main floor will feature storefront windows and the original historic archway entry, with a new steel-and-glass canopy. A new eighth floor was added to house penthouse-level suites with private terraces and a common-area private bar for hotel guests to enjoy the view over Pike Place Market and Elliott Bay. Vida Design is the interior designer working on the project.

“We began this project three years ago with a local team, from our investment partners to the general contractor. It started out with a commitment to the preservation of this important historic building, and we are working to reconstruct something we hope the city of Seattle really likes,” said Patrick Foley of Lake Union Partners, the urban real estate firm that is part of the ownership and renovation team. “While it was a much greater cost and technical challenge to repurpose the building than to tear it down and rebuild, its character and creative design are things we know our guests and neighbors will enjoy and appreciate.”

Columbia Hospitality, a Seattle-based hospitality management company, will manage and operate the hotel, and Rob Nichols will serve as general manager. To make reservations or learn more about The State Hotel, visit www.statehotel.com.

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About The State Hotel

Located in the heart of downtown Seattle next to Pike Place Market, the 91-room boutique hotel will provide easy access to Seattle’s best attractions and feature a rooftop terrace and bar for hotel guests and a ground-floor restaurant and bar called Ben Paris. The historic building was constructed in 1904 and received landmark designation status in 2006. The State Hotel is owned by a group of local investors and managed by Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality. For more information, visit www.statehotel.com.

About Lake Union Partners

Seattle-based Lake Union Partners is an urban real estate firm specializing in mixed-use commercial projects and historic preservation redevelopment in metropolitan markets throughout the Pacific Northwest. As a team of creative and experienced developers, the firm is focused on building projects with design integrity and sensitivity to local neighborhoods. Learn more at www.lakeunionpartners.com.

About Columbia Hospitality

Columbia Hospitality (Columbia) is a Seattle-based hospitality management and consulting company that was established in 1995 by founder and CEO John Oppenheimer. Columbia's growing portfolio includes award-winning hotels, public and private golf facilities, conference centers, distinctive venues and residential properties. Columbia creates exceptional experiences for guests and team members while achieving phenomenal results for property owners. For more information about Columbia and to view the entire portfolio, visit www.columbiahospitality.com.

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