

## Ex-Tilth chef part of team opening restaurant and bar near Pike Place



The developers of the State Hotel on Wednesday announced the name of the project's hotel and bar, Ben Paris. Located at Second Avenue and Pike Street, the 91-room boutique hotel is set to open next year in the landmark Eitel Building, which was built in 1904.

COLUMBIA HOSPITALITY

A bar and restaurant called Ben Paris will open in March at the State Hotel, a boutique property near Seattle's Pike Place Market.

On Wednesday the hotel project team said [Reid Kendall](#) will be general manager of Ben Paris. Kendall, who designed the bar and restaurant, formerly ran Gemma at the Bowery Hotel in New York City and more recently Tallulah's on Seattle's Capitol Hill.

Ben Paris Executive Chef [Quinton Stewart](#) has worked at the Waverly Inn in New York City and two Seattle restaurants, Hitchcock and Tilth.

The menu will offer "an imaginative spin on classic American fare, with bold, straightforward flavors," a press release states. Service is planned morning, noon and night, and Stewart said patrons "can expect generous hospitality in an energetic atmosphere." [Abigail Gullo](#), formerly of Compère Lapin in New Orleans, is the bar manager.

Seattle-based Lake Union Partners three years ago [acquired the circa-1904 landmark Eitel Building at Second Avenue and Pike Street for \\$5.35 million](#) and is turning it into the State, a 91-room property.

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.

The design of Ben Paris will mirror the hotel as a whole. It will have artwork, including wall coverings and portraits commissioned from Northwest artist [Kate Blainstone](#). The hotel's largest art feature is a five-story mural by noted street artist [Shepard Fairey](#) of Obey Giant. The mural, Fire Sale, was recently installed on the west façade of the building.

Architecture firm Weinstein A+U and general contractor Exxel Pacific are working on the redevelopment, which includes a seismic retrofit, new elevators and mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

The cost of the project has not been disclosed, though the building permit lists the value of the work at more than \$12.1 million.

"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," [Patrick Foley](#) of Lake Union Partners said in the news release.

Columbia Hospitality, a Seattle-based hospitality management company, will manage and operate the hotel, and Rob Nichols will serve as general manager.