

NEWS FROM:

**Mike's East-West
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harmonious Evolution: Bayley-Fennelly Restaurant Team Return to St. Charles Avenue Mike's East - West to occupy former site of Mike's on the Avenue

New Orleans, LA - Restaurateur Vicky Bayley and chef Mike Fennelly, the creators of the former Mike's on the Avenue, are returning to the site of their original restaurant in the Central Business District at 628 St. Charles. They plan to open their new venture, Mike's East-West, in mid-to-late January.

Mike's East-West, on the ground floor of the Lafayette Hotel at Lafayette Square, will be similar to the original version of Mike's in both food and atmosphere, but with many additional menu options and a new interior that once again reflects Fennelly's talents as an artist and designer.

The chef's culinary approach is decidedly contemporary and pulls ingredients from the global pantry Mike has enjoyed over the years through extensive travel. Many of his dishes contrast Asian and American ingredients and techniques, bringing a distinctive sensibility to fusion cooking. Much of Fennelly's food also reflects his fascination with New Orleans cuisine. These elements meet in such Fennelly classics as crawfish spring rolls with chile-lime sauce, and mirin-braised short ribs with papardelle pasta. His crab cakes are lavished with East Indian spices. And he pairs a blackened-tuna Napoleon with a tamari vinaigrette.

Mike's on the Avenue operated for nine years at the St. Charles location and closed in 1999. Ten years later, Mike's East-West is a natural evolution of the Bayley-Fennelly restaurant concept that appeals to clientele today: small plates for sharing with larger plate options, a relaxed environment with upscale touches, affordable pricepoints, food-friendly wines and specialty cocktails.

A totally new feature at Mike's East-West will be an open sushi station manned by Fennelly himself, at one end of a white-marble counter in the large main dining room. Adorning the muted-white walls of the room will be a number of Fennelly's color-splashed paintings and an oversized wall mirror on which daily specials will be posted. The concept will feature an additional venue; Twist at Mike's, a high energy cocktail bar with interactive entertainment and "dim sum" style small plates. Twist at Mike's is just a few yards from the main dining room across the lobby of the Lafayette Hotel with sidewalk seating available overlooking St. Charles Avenue.

"We want the new Mike's to be the same welcoming gathering place it was at the beginning," Bayley said. "Mike has created a lot of new dishes to augment the classics our customers came to love during the nineties. I'm confident they'll be just as excited about the new ones. And the energy level here in the CBD is higher than ever, which excites us, too."

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