

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

El Gaucho to Open In Downtown Bellevue

Mackay Restaurants Inks Deal With City Center Plaza

SEATTLE, Wash. — (September 14, 2007) —Eastside El Gaucho devotees have long wondered when their favorite steakhouse would appear on *their* side of Lake Washington, and now they have an answer.

Set to open fall 2008, El Gaucho Bellevue will be the only high-end restaurant slated for the 26-story City Center Plaza (under construction at 110th Ave. N.E. and N.E. 6th St.), Designed by Arellano/Christofides Architects PLLC (the design team that has been behind every Mackay restaurant) El Gaucho Bellevue will proffer its own distinct character without sacrificing any of the luxurious, sophisticated appeal that characterizes its siblings.

The 12,000 sq. ft., \$4 million restaurant will boast 26-foot ceilings and a mezzanine. In contrast to the "exclusive hideaway" ambiance of the Belltown, Tacoma and Portland El Gaucho's, the Bellevue location will have windows and outdoor dining. The main dining room will accommodate 125 guests, 50 in the lounge and 40 on the patio. There will also be six private dining rooms of varying sizes.

El Gaucho Bellevue is the fourth location for the steakhouse renowned for its 28-Day Dry-Aged Certified Angus Beef® Prime, lavish tableside preparations, and extensive world-class wine lists. In addition to signature El Gaucho features, such as a nightly piano bar and the famously nostalgic 1950s "retro-swank" atmosphere, this highly anticipated El Gaucho will also serve lunch and happy hour.

Fifty-four years ago, the landmark El Gaucho opened at 7th and Olive. Founder and CEO Paul Mackay recalls, "The first time I walked into the Gaucho, the ambiance hit me. It was the most stunning place I had ever seen in my life, and I thought that sometime I would like to work there."

Says COO and President Chad Mackay, "We've always wanted to bring El Gaucho to the Eastside, and everything just came together beautifully. The location is removed from the congestion around 8th and Bellevue Way. Downtown Bellevue has some wonderful restaurants, but what we're bringing into the mix are unparalleled facilities for business customers *and* being able to provide a truly special night out for guests...a luxurious, urban experience minus bridges and downtown traffic. "

This announcement makes a great way to celebrate the ten year anniversary of Paul Mackay's re-opening of El Gaucho in Belltown.

When the Mackay family celebrates, they do it in a very big way.

El Gaucho® (www.elgaucho.com) steakhouses, located in Seattle, Tacoma and Portland, are renowned for their 28-Day Dry-Aged Certified Angus Beef® Prime, tableside preparations, extensive wine list, reserve and single malt scotch lists, nightly piano bar and intimate private dining. El Gaucho Portland also features a cigar lounge. El Gaucho was recently voted "Best Steak 2005" by Citysearch, "Readers' Choice for Best Steak" by Seattle Magazine and has earned five Wine Spectator "Awards of Excellence." All three El Gaucho locations are open Monday – Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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Media Contacts: Stephanie Lin
Randall PR / (206) 624-5757

Sandra Wright, Director of Marketing
Mackay Restaurants / (206) 352-1450 x15
swright@mackayrestaurants.com