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The Fourth Bore Tap Room & Grill Opens in Theatre Square

By Sophie Braccini



Michael Karp at the door of the new restaurant Photo Jaya Griggs

It can be a bit puzzling when a business owner closes a seemingly successful restaurant to replace it with another one. Michael Karp, who owns Barbacoa and Table 24 in Orinda's Theatre Square, did just that. He closed Barbacoa at the beginning of November and recently reopened as The Fourth Bore Tap Room & Grill - a modern American pub with craft beer and a year-round beer garden.

The restaurant features wood-fired rib eye, house-ground burgers, crispy cheese curd, homemade soups and salads. "It's a stripped down version of Table 24, more pub style. The anchor will be the 30 rotated craft beers, and we'll have live music from time to time," says Karp.

Come spring, or on warm winter days, the space above The Fourth Bore, which has been used for private parties, will have a portable bar, and people will gather to play Cornwall darts. "I want the place to be fun, thriving. I want it to be a blast,

approachable to everyone," says Karp. "This will be about groups, softball and soccer teams." With seven big screen TVs, Karp adds that it will be a perfect place for kids as well. "People will find here in Orinda the kind of experience they go to Berkeley or San Francisco to find."

Karp says that while Barbacoa was a really good restaurant, he wanted a place that was "over the moon."

"Table 24 or Forge (Pizza) are over the moon, and that is what I want there," says Karp, who is the owner of six other restaurants, including Forge Pizza in Oakland, Danville and soon Napa. "I had the concept of the Fourth Bore in mind for some time, so when I had the opportunity to partner with brewer J.J. Phair of E.J Phair Brewery and Restaurants I had to seize the opportunity; it all happened at once."

Table 24 chef, Jonathan Williams, will be taking charge of The Fourth Bore, moving some of his favorite food with him, such as lobster that he will nicely incorporate into a macaroni and cheese. "With 30 different beers on tap, a great wine and artisan cocktail menu, the restaurant will be a place of constant new happenings, a central hub where people will always see someone they know when they come in," says Karp.

Table 24 will also evolve. According to Karp it will be elevated a bit, more entrée heavy, where people will go for a sit-down dinner experience.

The restaurant will celebrate its grand opening with live music starting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. For information, visit thefourthbore.com.

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<u>back</u>

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