

El Gaucho steakhouse opens at Vancouver waterfront

Restaurant offers upscale dining, rooftop bar at Hotel Indigo

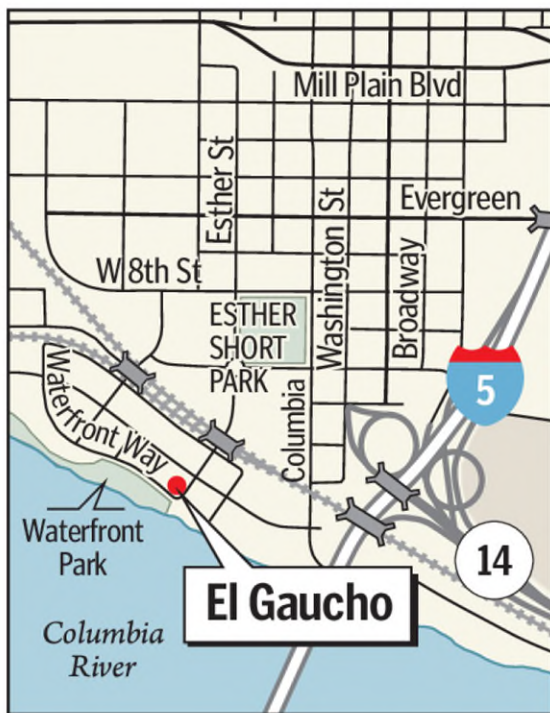
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Glasses, plates and napkins await diners at El Gaucho. The upscale steakhouse opened Thursday at the new Hotel Indigo at the Waterfront Vancouver. (Taylor Balkom/The Columbian)



The Columbian

Vancouver's newest restaurant and steakhouse, El Gaucho, opened at The Waterfront Vancouver on Thursday evening, also offering city's first rooftop bar called the Witness Tree. Soon to follow, the Hotel Indigo and all-day restaurant [13 Coins](#) both plan a soft opening on Nov. 17.

The long-awaited steakhouse, located at 510 Waterfront Way, is an expansion of the franchise, which has a location in Portland and another in Seattle. The dimmed-light atmosphere and black-tie wait staff bring a new level of upscale dining to Vancouver.

The restaurant, owned by parent company Fire & Vine Hospitality, was announced in February 2019.

Before visiting the site for the first time, El Gaucho CEO Chad Mackay originally envisioned a less luxurious restaurant to open in the spot, [he told The Columbian](#). But once he saw The Waterfront Vancouver, he realized that El Gaucho would match the atmosphere.

"The Waterfront Vancouver wasn't just a developer selling a dream," Mackay told The Columbian. "It was actually being delivered."

El Gaucho is continuing a trend of Portland-level restaurants coming to Vancouver because of the city's new appeal and growth. [Grassa and Bless Your Heart Burgers](#) are also on that list. El Gaucho is open Tuesday through Saturday, opening at 4:30 p.m. and the last seating is at 9 p.m. It seats a maximum of about 250 and will employ about 55 people when fully staffed.

"It's a big-time deal," said Dean Kirkland, chairman of Kirkland Development, which led the building development.

The Liquor Cabinet, a liquor, beer and wine store, and the 13 Coins coffee shop will also open Thursday.

Some other retail spots in the building are still undergoing final construction. Evoke Winery is about 50 percent complete and will open in early January, Kirkland said. [Amelie spa](#) is about 70 percent finished and should be open by Christmas.

The condos in the conjoined Kirkland Tower will be open for residents at the end of November. About 60 percent of the units have been sold so far, Kirkland said.









