

Pican Restaurant Contemporary Southern Cuisine for Oakland's FiDi



Pican Restaurant is opening next month in downtown Oakland, a few blocks away from the Paramount and Fox theaters.

The revitalization of Oakland's financial district has been quite incredible. It has risen like a virtual phoenix from the ashes of neglect and abandonment. Many can remember that it wasn't too many years ago when purchasing a cafe latte was mission impossible. Now, it is a matter of choosing which cafe to favor with one's custom, with all the gleaming new malls, banks and modern architectural styles of the new office structures vying for space in Oakland's Fidi.

Part of this new metropolis is going to include Michael LeBlanc's new Pican Restaurant, which opens in mid-March. LeBlanc, an African-American is no stranger to blazing new trails. His vision is to bring Contemporary Southern cuisine and a touch of New Orleans elegance to this booming area.

Designer Tonya Bellusci and Bellusci Design of San Francisco seem to have brought his dream to fulfillment with a 19-foot copper "drape" that will hang from ceiling to floor behind the host desk at the entrance to the new restaurant. 19th Century French doors and crushed pecan shells are other design accents that Bellusci has brought to the room.

Picán is located on the ground floor of a new residential high-rise called "Broadway Grand." The restaurant seats 158 guests inside and can accommodate another 24 people outside in a sidewalk seating area.

"We wanted to craft an elegant restaurant that expresses the rich tapestry of the South and really creates the *feel* of 'down home traditional meets cosmopolitan sophistication,'" said LeBlanc, owner of Pican and a New Orleans native. "Tonya was able to bring my vision of a warm and inclusive restaurant to life -- with just the right touch of Southern hospitality and genteel New Orleans charm."

We look forward to this gracious and tasty addition to the East Bay's fine dining restaurants. Pican will be located at 2295 Broadway, Oakland and is due to open March 18, 2009.