

World Famous Tavern on the Green to Open in San Francisco

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One of Nation's Highest-Grossing Independently Owned Restaurants Partners with The Westfield Group to Bring 40,000 Square Foot Dining Establishment for All Occasions to West Coast - Famed Restaurant to Embrace San Francisco Spirit in Taking Most Significant Business Step in its Storied History

Tavern on the Green, one of the highest-grossing independently owned restaurants in the United States, today announced that it will open a new restaurant in the food capital of the West Coast, San Francisco.

The move is the most significant business endeavor taken by the famed dining establishment since the LeRoy family took control of the business in 1974. Tavern on the Green has annual revenues approaching \$40 million and hosts more than 600,000 visitors each year in New York.

'We have been anxiously waiting for the perfect opportunity to expand the Tavern on the Green brand and we are pleased to say that we have finally found it in San Francisco,' said Jennifer LeRoy, CEO of Tavern on the Green. 'The City of San Francisco, with its vibrancy, diversity and passionate dining culture, combined with the perfect setting on a park in the heart of the city is simply too good to be true.'

While Tavern on the Green sits on New York City's Central Park, Tavern on the Green San Francisco will be fittingly situated overlooking the beautiful Yerba Buena Gardens in the center of San Francisco's main business and hospitality district. The restaurant will be on the top floor of Metreon, co-owned by the Westfield Group and Forest City Commercial Group, as one of the anchors of the retail, restaurant and entertainment facility.

Tavern on the Green San Francisco will encompass nearly 30,000 square feet of interior space plus a 13,000 square foot outdoor terrace overlooking the park, allowing diners to take in a captivating view of the San Francisco skyline. It will feature private dining, an event space and the return of the historic Maxwell's Plum Bar. Upon opening, the restaurant will immediately compete as one of the top event spaces in the Bay Area. The location is adjacent to Westfield San Francisco Centre, Moscone Convention Center, notable museums and a five minute walk from 20,000 of the city's 32,000 hotel rooms.

While an Executive Chef for Tavern on the Green San Francisco has yet to be officially determined, in making the announcement Michael Desiderio, Chief Operating Officer of Tavern on the Green pledged that the cuisine will feature local, fresh California ingredients and an extensive wine list that draws from the area's renowned vineyards.

Mr. Desiderio said, 'San Francisco is famous for its food and fresh ingredients. We have every intention of embracing the local spirit, and while we are extremely proud of the historic feel and legendary brand that Tavern on the Green has built in New York, we are excited for the opportunity to provide an atmosphere and experience that is unique to San Francisco.'

The opening of the San Francisco restaurant will serve as a landmark event in the well-documented history of the famous restaurant. Initially built to house sheep in 1870, the building now known as Tavern on the Green in New York officially became a restaurant in 1934. In 1974, Warner LeRoy, who revolutionized the American dining scene with his legendary Maxwell's Plum Bar, took over the restaurant's lease, embarked upon an unprecedented \$10 million renovation and re-opened Tavern on the Green to public acclaim in 1976. Since Warner LeRoy's death in 2001, Tavern on the Green has continued to thrive under the direction of his daughter Jennifer LeRoy.

'Tavern on the Green is an iconic name with local, regional and international appeal,' said Catharine C. Dickey, executive vice president, communications for Westfield. 'It is an ideal complement to the world-class cultural, hospitality and convention businesses in the area.'

'Tavern on the Green is a name with character, charisma and celebrity that will serve as yet another catalyst in the growth of one of San Francisco's most dynamic neighborhoods,' said Natalie Berg, senior vice president, Forest City Development. 'This is an extraordinary addition to the area's distinctive landscape.'

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