

KANE COUNTY CHRONICLE



PRIMO PROMISES WINE, FOOD PAIRINGS WITH OLD FASHIONED FLAIR

By Stephanie Kohl-McCord

Come January, area residents will have a new reason to flock to All Chocolate Kitchen in Geneva.

World-renown Chef Alain Roby will open PRIMO ("first dish" in Italian) in the New Year. This will be All Chocolate Kitchen's, 33 S. Third St., third expansion in three years, and will focus on wine.

"To have a restaurant was always a dream," Roby says.

Menu items at PRIMO will include a selection of domestic, French and Italian artisanal cheeses, charcuterie, crab avocado sliders, short ribs in a red wine sauce, seared lamb shank with Portobello mushrooms and green spiced lentils, crostini au fromage and Grandmother Louise's eggplant confit. It also will feature a selection of local, French, German and Italian wines.

It was the discovery of his grandmother's recipes about a year ago, and the availability of an adjoining storefront that launched the new endeavor.

"I just thought it would be so amazing to share this with people," Roby says.

Roby added that PRIMO is a nice complement to everything All Chocolate Kitchen already offered and everything is all under one roof.

"You can come have an amazing dinner and amazing wine... it makes it really a wonderful experience flavor-wise, and also visually."

Roby says he had wine experts come in to try the food that PRIMO will offer. A suggested wine list was created from that visit. PRIMO will offer about 25 wines to go with its 10 menu items. It will also offer champagne. Menu items include dishes from Roby's mother and grandmother, which had been family favorites.

It's not really the quantity," he says, "it's going to be the quality."

PRIMO will have seating for 25 to 30 people. All Chocolate Kitchen's newest décor includes a 22-foot tall chocolate rig continuously pumping chocolate and a

large-scale lighted sugar art masterpiece. PRIMO will also have a lounge area, perfect for groups to drink wine and enjoy cheese and other offerings.

"It's going to be really a fun place to come experience," Roby says.

Service is important to Roby, so those working in PRIMO will be knowledgeable about both its menu items and wine offerings. Wine pairings will be suggested.

With its newest addition, All Chocolate Kitchen will focus on wine, chocolate, dessert and food. Roby says both the food and "look" of PRIMO will be unique.

Guests can also look forward to wine pairings. Roby says he plans to offer wine pairings, putting his top truffles with a complementing wine to really highlight the flavors of both.

"(This is) a life dream come true and we want to be sharing our passion for wine and food with customers," Roby says, adding when guests visit All Chocolate Kitchen, they can expect to be treated like family.

All Chocolate Kitchen's Primo
29 S. Third St. Geneva IL. 60134 - 630 232 2280