

Culinary Pioneer Focuses on New Menu and Concept

Downtown's Reserve Wine & Food closes temporarily for new concept, pushing dining scene forward

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. (April 2, 2024) - After 14 years of pushing the culinary scene forward, downtown restaurant Reserve Wine & Food announces its plan to focus on a new concept and menu. Reserve's last service will occur on Thursday, May 2, while redevelopment and construction of the restaurant will take place over the summer. The timing aligns with the space-making construction on Lyon Street that will create an exciting new use of the alley and space next to Reserve.

"Since opening, Reserve set a new standard for dining in Grand Rapids," said Luke VerHulst, General Manager. "The talented team consistently led farm-to-table dining in Grand Rapids and our relationships with our producers are still the gold standard in the region. We're proud of how Reserve pushed culinary boundaries, and it is time to innovate again."

Opening in 2010, Reserve brought high-level food and wine experiences to downtown patrons. Starting as a wine bar before expanding to offer a full menu, Reserve houses the second largest custom-built Cruvinet system in the United States. Through nitrogen pressurized preservation, the system gives a single bottle of wine a shelf life of five weeks and allows the restaurant to offer 102 wines "on tap." Reserve's cellar has grown to offer more than 800 wines from around the world, with a focus on California, France, and Italy. In 2011, Food & Wine Magazine named Reserve one of the "World-Class Wine Bars," and in 2017, Grand Rapids Magazine named Reserve "Restaurant of the Year."

Also a trailblazer in attracting career-driven talent, Reserve was one of the first independent restaurants in Grand Rapids to offer employee benefits, including medical coverage, retirement contributions, paid holidays, and paid vacation days. The restaurant has proudly housed countless talented chefs and team members, with several former employees opening successful restaurants after their time at Reserve. Others followed their time at Reserve by working at Michelin star restaurants across the country.

"This pause is bitter-sweet, but as Grand Rapids transforms right in our backyard with the new Lyon Square space, we also have the opportunity to evolve," said VerHulst.

Special menus will be featured throughout the month, concluding with the last night of dining on May 2. The new concept will be announced during the summer, with reopening scheduled before the end of 2024.

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About Reserve

Reserve Wine & Food is located in downtown Grand Rapids and features from-the-farm American fare. Our team is committed to forming connections – with our guests and within our community – by providing an unmatched atmosphere and unparalleled service alongside authentic cuisine and an extensive wine and cocktail program.