

ZAGAT

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Rao's Hollywood Debuts This Summer



Rao's Vegas, just like Rao's NY

By **Lesley Balla**

Looks like Frank Pelligrinio Jr. and the whole **Rao's** clan will be moving into Hollywood sooner than we thought. News slipped out like a piece of spaghetti that the famed East Harlem restaurant - around for more than 100 years, only 10 tables in the joint, *impossible* to get into, "connected" - **plans to open in the former Hollywood Canteen spot on Seward**, and it will be here around late spring/early summer. "The people of Southern California represent a large portion of our guests in Las Vegas, and many have become good friends of ours. We can't wait to have a Rao's in their backyard to call home," Pelligrino says in a release.

This is the second Western expansion for the group: A double-sided **outpost** opened in Caesars Palace in Las Vegas several years ago, a great place to stop for a martini, a plate of meatballs and stories from the someone named Johnny the Vest. It's nowhere near as difficult to get a table there than at the original, mostly because there are two dining rooms (exact replicas of the original), with a huge bar and an outdoor patio next to a bocce court. The LA Rao's will be somewhere in between the two, with about 95 seats and indoor and outdoor seating.

The plan is to open six days a week for dinner, with the traditional offerings like the legendary meatballs and lemon chicken, but also more "contemporary dishes created specifically for this location." Hope that doesn't mean low-carb pasta. We'll keep you posted.

Rao's

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