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ASTARIA RESTAURANT WELCOMES HOMETOWN CHEF TONY FLIER TO ASSIST IN THE RELAUNCH OF THIS DOWNTOWN SAN MATEO RESTAURANT

San Mateo, California - Local Chef Tony Flier comes to Astaria Restaurant from the Avenir Restaurant Group (Town, Nola's and Milagros) where he worked in many capacities over the last 14 years, but most recently as their corporate chef. Chef Flier has been instrumental in the opening of seven restaurants including the three currently owned by Avenir as well as other local favorites: Top of the Market, San Mateo, A Tavola, San Carlos, Kingfish, San Mateo as well as five years at 231 Ellsworth just shortly after its opening. Chef Flier was raised in San Mateo and worked his way up the "Food Chain" from dish washer, to 12 years as a line cook all the while sharpening his talents. Chef Flier shaped his style and approach to food while working with chefs; Kurt Grasing, David Lawrence, Phil Ogiela (231 Ellsworth) and most notably Jan Birnbaum (Epic Roasthouse) and restaurateurs Tom Duffy, Ken Ottoboni, Randy Paragary and of course Avenir's Greg St. Claire. He also spent time as a Stagier in New York four star restaurants, Daniel, Jean Georges and Chanterelle.

Chef Tony came to Astaria on the eve of their 5th Anniversary to assist Chef, co-owner Alicia Petrakis and sous chef Francisco Morales in designing a menu to suit their redefined concept, Robust California Fare. Together under the guidance of Chef Tony, Astaria will be introducing their new menu as well as an updated interior Saturday, November 29th. The new menu embraces the familiar and sends it uptown. The result: Total Comfort... food that hugs you. Astaria's blend of using local purveyors as well as focusing on sustainable ingredients result in a creative menu that will provide guests with five seasonal menu changes per year.

Astaria occupies the space that was once the coffee shop in the Historic Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Café For All Seasons and most recently the Lark Creek Cafe on the upper east side of Third Avenue in Downtown San Mateo. Astaria is owned by two local business women, Eleni Lolas and Alicia Petrakis.

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