

Coming Full Circle



Evan Goldstein, MS, and Limeng Stroh have ventured into a new company with high expectations for client—and guest—satisfaction.

The initial shock over renowned wine and service educator Evan Goldstein's move to newly formed Full Circle Wine Solutions is quickly alleviated upon learning more about this one-of-a-kind company. Founded by Chief Executive Officer Limeng Stroh, Full Circle's foundation is a premise revered by Goldstein for years—quality. According to the noted master sommelier, the company's goal is to give clients the "highest level of content, quality, and delivery," a message he not only preaches but practices as well, demanding that "training shouldn't be pulled out of a Cracker Jack box."

Full Circle creates tailored wine- and hospitality-training programs aimed at helping restaurants and other clients grow brand loyalty and profits. To do this, Stroh and Goldstein have crafted a network of industry professionals who will work one-on-one with Full Circle clients. "We've worked hard to identify people that we know are eloquent and articulate and have the necessary charisma," asserts Goldstein, adding that the handpicked professionals also "can successfully educate people, have content locked and loaded, and have an ability to maintain a group's commitment."

According to Stroh and Goldstein, Full Circle will start out small, working with a limited number of clients to whom the team feels they can "deliver what they want, how they want it." Growth, says Goldstein, will be thoughtful and methodical. "There's going to be a lot of expectation," he concludes, "and we want to make sure we deliver."

CALIFORNIA—The Lodge at Sonoma welcomed Executive Chef Roland Scheller and Director of Food and Beverage Gary Perez to the property's Carneros Bistro & Wine Bar. • Author and Chef Akasha Richmond launched AKASHA restaurant and bakery in Culver City. • Brian McKeaney, Ken Kaufman, and Tom Patchett partnered to open Rush Street in Culver City. • The Bay Area's first churrasco-style dining venue, Pampas, opened in Palo Alto, with Executive Chef John Karbowski taking the reins. • Executive Chef/Owner Ruggero Gadaldi opened Beretta in San Francisco's Mission District. • The talents of Executive Chef Lisa Eyherabide, Beverage Director Sean Diggins, and Bar Director Leila Seppa combined in opening Gitane Restaurant & Bar in San Francisco. • Copperopolis's The Lodge at Saddle Creek welcomed Elizabeth Kallio as The Copper Grille's executive chef. • Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurants Co-Founder Dean Biersch opened Hopmonk Tavern in Sebastopol.

DELAWARE—Michael Hynansky and General Manager Henry Dawson opened Ameritage Bistro in Wilmington.

FLORIDA—Steak-house chain Chima Brazilian Steakhouse, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, announced a national expansion into Vienna, Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; Philadelphia; and Charlotte, North Carolina. • In Key West, the Glazier Group opened Strip House, with Executive Chef John Schenk.

GEORGIA—Husband-and-wife team Chef Linton and Gina Hopkins partnered with Mixologist Greg Best to open Holeman and Finch Public House in Atlanta. • The Capital Grille, based in Atlanta, opened its two newest locations in Stamford, Connecticut, and Seattle, Washington.

ILLINOIS—Townhouse Restaurant Group and Chef Marcus Samuelsson opened C-House in Chicago. • Chef Paul Fehribach opened Big Jones in Chicago. • Co-owners Jason Paskewitz and Phillip Lotsoff opened Jackson Park Bar and Grill in Chicago. • Executive Chef/Co-owner Shawn Eastwood and Co-owner Dean Georgelos opened Mediterranean restaurant Olo, in Chicago. • ZED451, a contemporary steak house, was opened in Chicago by Tavistock Restaurants. • Villa Park welcomed steak house CHURRASCO BRAZIL. • Chef Graham Elliot Bowles unveiled his new restaurant, graham elliot, in Chicago.

MAINE—In Rockland, Chefs/Owners Lynette Mosher and Robert Krajewski opened LILY BISTRO.

NEW YORK—Restaurateurs Andy Yang and Erak Cheah opened New York City's Kurve, offering Bangkok-style cuisine. • Owners Jon Barkley and Ron Castellano opened Broadway East, a vegetable-focused restaurant near Manhattan. • Fred Dexheimer, MS, returned to New York City-based BLT Restaurant Group, taking the position of national wine and beverage director. • Gregg Lauletta joined Prime—An American Kitchen and Bar, in Huntington, as executive chef. • Restaurateur Michael Stillman debuted Park Avenue Spring, the seasonal remake of the Manhattan restaurant. • Renowned Chef Alain Ducasse opened French-bistro-style Benoit in New York City. • Partners Jason Denton and Joe Denton and Chefs Eric Kleinman and Steve Connaughton launched Bar Milano in New York City...