

April 21, 2009

Cantina Laredo opens in Gulch

*By Nancy DeVille
The Tennessean*

Cantina Laredo, an upscale Mexican restaurant, is the latest business to open in The Gulch. The restaurant on the ground floor of the Icon condominium tower opened Tuesday.

The menu features a variety of authentic Mexican dishes, including daily fish specials, grilled chicken and steaks.

"It's an amazing gourmet restaurant unlike any other," said Matt Langston, the restaurant's general manager. "Our food is more authentic Mexican and is prepared fresh daily in house, which sets up apart from what our clientele may have gone to in the past.

"The freshness is what will make Cantina Laredo one of the best restaurants in Nashville."

Other offerings include a Sunday brunch with complimentary Bloody Marys and Mimosas, preparation of fresh guacamole at the customer's table, and catering services for events such as holiday parties and business meetings. Entrées are priced from \$14 to \$26.

Despite the recession, Langston believes the area is still ripe for business.

"The economy seems to be holding strong, which is great for opening up a brand new business," he said. "We are a very strong match for the clientele that we are going to have and for the people that live and work in The Gulch. As more businesses start up, it draws more people to the area."

The Gulch location is Cantina Laredo's 29th, and its first in Tennessee. The Dallas-based company is the largest gourmet Mexican restaurant brand in the United States, officials say.

"We were trying to find an upscale Mexican restaurant for years and Cantina Laredo is a great fit," said Jay Turner, managing partner with MarketStreet Enterprises, the principal developer of The Gulch.

"Our goal is for people to say, let's drive to The Gulch and get something to eat and have a variety to chose from. The décor, menu and sophistication of the place is perfect for Icon and The Gulch."

Additional Facts

Getting there

Cantina Laredo, 592 12th Ave. S., is on the ground floor of the Icon tower.

Hours are 11 a.m.- 10 p.m. Sunday- Thursday and 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Happy hour is 4-7 p.m. Monday –Friday.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 259-9282. To view the menu, visit www.cantinalaredo.com.
