




< Warm up your gathering with these holiday spirits


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Elway's restaurant opens in Vail

November 22, 2011 In Events, Food & Wine, ML Recommends, Out & About, Travel by Christine | No comments



Last weekend, Colorado foodies made their way to [The Lodge at Vail](#) for a special soft opening of the newest [Elway's](#) restaurant. (We spotted former "The Bachelorette" contestant Ryan Sutter dining with his Vail fire department friends, but sans Trista, just a few tables away.) Owned by former Denver Bronco quarterback and NFL Hall of Fame inductee **John Elway** and business partner Tim Schmidt, the restaurant opened to the public yesterday just in time for après ski.

A head-to-toe makeover orchestrated by Denver-based [OZ Architecture](#) completely transformed the rather dated space—the longtime home to the Wildflower restaurant—into cozy dining rooms and a bar decked out in wood, steel and stone, as well as an exhibition-style kitchen.

The 5,500-square-foot restaurant is smaller than Elway's original Cherry Creek location, and while the menu is pared down as well, you'll still find favorites including hand-cut, aged USDA prime steaks, Colorado rack of lamb, King Canyon buffalo ribeye, the signature Smash Burger and some killer sides, from a Brussels sprout hash to mac-and-cheese. At the bar they're pouring regional spirits, from Stranahan's to Leopold Bros., and wines from an extensive list.

Elway's Vail is open for après ski from 2:30 p.m. daily. We're guessing that with its prime location less than a block from the base of Vail Mountain, this will become an après hotspot. Dinner service begins at 5:00 p.m. daily. To reserve a table, call 970-754-7818 or visit [elways.com](#).

Tags: apres ski, Elway's, John Elway, Lodge at Vail, steakhouse

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