



- Dominique Taylor / dtaylor@vaildaily.com

Elway's moves in to the Lodge at Vail

Broncos legend namesake restaurant makes Vail its third location

NOVEMBER, 16 2011

BY [LAUREN GLENNING](#)

LGLENNING@VAILDAILY.COM

VAIL, CO COLORADO

VAIL — The popular Denver restaurant named for former Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway has made its way to Vail, and the Lodge at Vail space it occupies looks nothing like it did just a few months ago.

Elway's Vail opens Monday, and the restaurant's managers and chefs gave a sneak preview to local media Wednesday.

The former Wildflower restaurant and Mickey's Lounge spaces at the Lodge at Vail are home to Elway's now. The remodel is nothing short of extraordinary, especially if you remember what the spaces looked like before.

The Wildflower, which had a very old, tired decor, and Mickey's Lounge, which also had a very outdated interior, have been transformed into a sleek, contemporary restaurant that fits right in with Vail's continuing revitalization.

A doorway now connects the former Mickey's space, now called the Elway Room, to the main restaurant space. The main entrance features a welcoming, open lobby area, where views of a raw bar and open kitchen can be seen.

There's a few bar tables near the front entrance as you walk toward the main bar area, where more cocktail tables and bar seats await. The main dining room features both views of the kitchen, and views overlooking the patio and Vail Village. The space is warm, with a color scheme of white, brown and beige, giving the dining room a feeling of elegance that is very simply stated.

For those who have dined at Elway's in Cherry Creek or downtown Denver, the Vail space is about half the size of the Cherry Creek location, and about comparable to the downtown location in terms of seating. The Vail location will have about 240 total seats, including the outside patio tables.

Elway's culinary director Tyler Wiard is thrilled about the restaurant's new location in Vail. He can't wait to open for business next week.

Wiard describes Elway's as a Colorado steakhouse. What it means is that you can get the traditional steakhouse concept experience of al la cart steaks and sides, but you can also order composed dishes and other specialty items.

"We'll give you the Budweiser and the burger, or the (Chateau) Mouton Rothschild Bordeaux with any steak you want," Wiard said.

From steaks and seafood to burgers and traditional steakhouse sides, Wiard and the management team say there's plenty on the menu to impress the palates of everyone from locals to high-end visitors.

"We like to have fun and enjoy what we do, and hopefully everyone enjoys eating the food," Wiard said.

Community Editor Lauren Glendenning can be reached at 970-748-2983 or lglendenning@vaildaily.com.